

**Land at
St Gabriel's College
Langton Road
Lambeth
London SW9 6UL**


Archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust between 3 and 14 July 2017 on land at St Gabriel's College on Langton Road, Lambeth, SW9 6UL (NGR 531890 176920). The work was commissioned by Kier Construction (Southern) on behalf of the college and the Education Funding Authority, as part of works for the demolition and replacement of the school's existing buildings. The archaeological work was a requirement (condition 34) of the planning consent granted by the London Borough of Lambeth (planning ref. 16/02324/FUL). The evaluation had been preceded by the preparation of an archaeological desk-based assessment and monitoring of preliminary geotechnical investigations, both of which predicated the form of the evaluation, which was undertaken in consultation with Historic England's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, and to a written scheme of investigation prepared by Canterbury Archaeological Trust. The earlier work had suggested that there was significant potential for the presence of important Palaeolithic remains from underlying geological deposits of the late Pleistocene Kempton Park Gravel Formation and later deposits of the Langley Silt Member. There was less potential for later periods.

Due to the restricted nature of the site it was not feasible to carry out any evaluation work prior to the demolition of the main school building and in accordance with the WSI, the main block was demolished to ground level and the existing slab and other hardstandings were removed from the footprint of the new build. Subsequent soil testing within the footprint of the original building indicated that there was a significant element of asbestos contamination within more recent made ground deposits and these levels were removed under controlled conditions before the evaluation. A total of five machine-cut evaluation trenches was excavated across the site (two were not cut for various reasons); the trenches had to be benched to attain the depth required and were initially between 14 and 22m in length and 5.20 and 6.80m wide. These were supplemented by deeper trenching under the supervision of a geoarchaeologist, through the underlying Kempton Park Gravels and Langley Silt. Some of these trenches attained depths of just over 5m from modern ground level, but the base of the gravels was not reached.

Unfortunately, the loose and predominantly sandy nature of the geological deposits caused trench collapse and hindered detailed recording. However, the levels have been interpreted as braided river sediments accumulating under a fluvial regime with variable flow, and part of the Kempton Park Gravel sequence. Deposits potentially of the Langley Silt Member were also recorded. It was not possible to definitively determine the presence of any individual channels (suggested by the earlier work), although the greater predominance of sandy deposits to the south-east did suggest a slower flowing channel there. In addition, no Palaeolithic artefacts or ecofactual material was recovered from any of these levels, nor were any discrete levels or deposits of bioenvironmental potential observed.

Subsequent Holocene deposits included a level of derived, mostly sterile subsoil possibly originally produced by a combination of colluviation and bioturbation/agricultural ploughing of the Langley Silt. However, few archaeological features of significance were found and no finds of any antiquity were recovered. One small pit or post-hole may have been of prehistoric origin, and two shallow ditches may represent medieval or early post-medieval field boundaries, but none provided any dating evidence. These features and deposits were sealed by a buried topsoil dating to before the construction of the former school buildings. This was in turn sealed by considerable deposits of made ground, laid to level the area during construction of the school in the 1970s.

1 Introduction and background

1.1 The development, planning and project background

- 1.1.1 Kier Construction (Southern), Broadmead House, New Hythe Business Park, Bellingham Way, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 6XS (Tel: 01622 798700), on behalf of St Gabriel's College, Lambeth and the Education Funding Authority, are currently involved in works for the demolition and replacement of the school's existing buildings on the former Charles Edward Brooke School site on Langton Road, Lambeth, SW9 6UL (NGR 531890 176920; Figs 1 and 2). The development is to include the demolition of the existing school buildings and caretaker's house and replacement with a 3-storey teaching and sports hall block with landscaping, parking and associated ancillary works (Planning Application 16/02324/FUL; London Borough of Lambeth). The Local Planning Authority under the Town and Country Planning Acts, granted permission for the development on 16 September 2016, with conditions. Condition 34 stated:

No demolition or development shall take place until a stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.

If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by stage 1 then for those parts of the site which have archaeological interest a stage 2 WSI shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage 2 WSI which shall include:

A. The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works

B. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the stage 2 WSI.

Reason: To preserve, protect, and safeguard archaeological monuments, remains and their settings in development (Policy Q23 of the London Borough of Lambeth Local Plan (2015)).

- 1.1.2 In addition, the decision notice stated (note 9):

With regards to condition 34, the written schemes of investigation will need to be prepared and implemented by a suitably qualified professionally accredited archaeological practice in accordance with Historic England's Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London. This condition is exempt from deemed discharge under schedule 6 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

The initial archaeological fieldwork would comprise the following: Geotechnical Monitoring - Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical pits and boreholes can provide a cost-effective means of establishing the potential for archaeological remains to survive on previously developed land or where deep deposits are anticipated. It is usually used as part of a desk-based assessment or field evaluation. Depending on the results, the following may also be required: Evaluation - An archaeological field evaluation involves exploratory fieldwork to determine if significant remains are present on a site and if so to define their character, extent, quality and preservation. Field evaluation may involve one or more techniques depending on the nature of the site and its archaeological potential. It will normally include excavation of trial trenches. A field evaluation report will usually be used to inform a planning decision (pre-determination evaluation) but can also be required by condition to refine a mitigation strategy after permission has been granted. The results of the initial phase of investigation will enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated.

- 1.1.3 The proposed new school building corresponds roughly to the footprint of the original main block (see Figs 2 and 4). It will be built over the current central courtyard and extend a little farther on all sides than the main outer wall-lines, though not as far as some of the extensions, including a basemented eastern corner. The existing subsidiary buildings are also to be demolished (the Creative Arts Block near the north-eastern corner only after the new main build is completed). A storm-water attenuation pit measuring about 12.5m by 25m and bottoming around 2.3m OD will be cut on the site of the Creative Arts Block, fitted with Aquacell or similar units and landscaped over. New sewerage and surface drainage, the latter discharging to the attenuation pit, will also be constructed.
- 1.1.4 An archaeological desk-based assessment (Sparey-Green 2016) had previously been commissioned (in January 2016 prior to the planning application by Kier (Southern) in view of the proposed development of the site. In consideration of the results of this assessment and in consultation with Historic England's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), monitoring of preliminary geotechnical investigations followed by an archaeological evaluation was considered the most appropriate archaeological response to the proposed scheme, with the flexibility to allow further mitigation in the form of excavation and/or watching brief(s), if required.
- 1.1.5 Kier Construction (Southern), on behalf of their clients, therefore commissioned a programme of archaeological monitoring, evaluation and recording prior to and during the development of the site and appointed Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) to undertake both the preparation of the WSIs and the fieldwork. The archaeological works were to be monitored by GLAAS.
- 1.1.6 Previous to this evaluation, and as advised by GLAAS, monitoring of the geotechnical investigation of the site was carried out (in February and March 2016). The results of this phase of works have been reported separately (Pratt 2016), but where relevant, have also been incorporated into the present report.
- 1.1.7 The WSI for the present evaluation (CAT 2016) was produced by CAT in July 2016, compiled by Jon Rady MCifA and Simon Pratt BA with consideration of the requirements outlined in Historic England's *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* (GLAAS 2015) and in consultation with Mark Stevenson, Historic

England's Archaeology Advisor (South London), Historic England's Regional Science Adviser for the South-East, Dr Jane Corcoran (in the temporary absence of the London adviser, Dr Sylvia Warman) and with Dr Peter Allen (independent geoarchaeological consultant). The WSI also took account of the results of the earlier monitoring of geotechnical investigations. The WSI set out the methodologies which would be followed during the site investigation works and during the post-excavation analysis and reporting stages. These were to follow the standards and code of practice laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), local and regional planning authority archaeology guidance, English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, where appropriate, and research priorities established by the Museum of London (MoL 2002).

- 1.1.8 The archaeological evaluation was carried out from 3-14 July 2017 and was supervised by Adrian Gollop (although there were some preliminary site works – see para. 1.2 below). The project was managed by Jon Rady MCIfA. The geo-archaeological work was undertaken by Dr Peter Allen who attended during the excavation of sondages into the underlying geological deposits (see below). The work was carried out on what was then an operating construction site, and undertaken to the main contractor's site rules and health and safety protocols. All site facilities and plant were supplied by Kier (Southern) Ltd and their groundworks subcontractor respectively.

1.2 Pre-commencement works

- 1.2.1 Apart from the monitoring and analysis of the geotechnical investigations (Pratt 2016), the complex nature of the site and development programme required pre-commencement works. Due to the restricted nature of the site it was not feasible to carry out any evaluation work prior to the demolition of the main school building. With the agreement of GLAAS, and in accordance with the WSI, the main block was demolished to ground level and the existing slab and other hardstandings were removed from the footprint of the new build. Due to the likely depth of modern overburden indicated from the geotechnical monitoring (0.4-1.6m in depth; Pratt 2016, 7) it was not considered that these works would have a significant impact on any underlying archaeological levels. Some extraction of sub-ground elements was also undertaken, primarily in the area of a basement under the eastern corner of the existing building. A site visit (by CAT) on 31 March 2017 suggested that this work was of limited impact; it was completed by early April 2017.
- 1.2.2 Subsequent soil testing within the footprint of the original building indicated that there was significant asbestos contamination within more recent made ground deposits and that these levels would have to be removed under controlled conditions before further work could commence. A maximum depth of c 0.8m was to be removed. Although the presumed depths of recent made ground again suggested this would not be a problem, some of this work was monitored to ensure that this was the case. These reductions in ground level within the footprint of the new build proved to have little or no impact on potentially archaeologically significant levels (see Figs 22 to 24). This reduction took place from late June and was ongoing at the start of the evaluation.

1.3 Site location and topography

- 1.3.1 The site (centred at roughly at NGR 531890 176920) fronts the south-western side of the south-eastern part of Langton Road in the London Borough of Lambeth and includes a narrow extension running north-west to the junction with Lothian Road (containing the

current Creative Arts Block; Figs 1 and 2). The Langton Road frontage is interrupted, briefly, by an electricity substation. To the east, the site is bounded by a Territorial Army Centre, to the south, west and north-west by the rear gardens of residential properties on Halsmere Road, Calais Street and Lothian Road respectively. The site is of an irregular shape, with a total area of approximately 7,250m², though only about 6,000m² will be significantly impacted on by the proposed development (Figs 3 and 4). The site originally accommodated a main building (to be replaced by a larger one), four subsidiary buildings (to be demolished), an area with outdoor gymnastic equipment (to be retained) and a tarmac playground to the south-west. The eastern corner of the original main building was basemented.

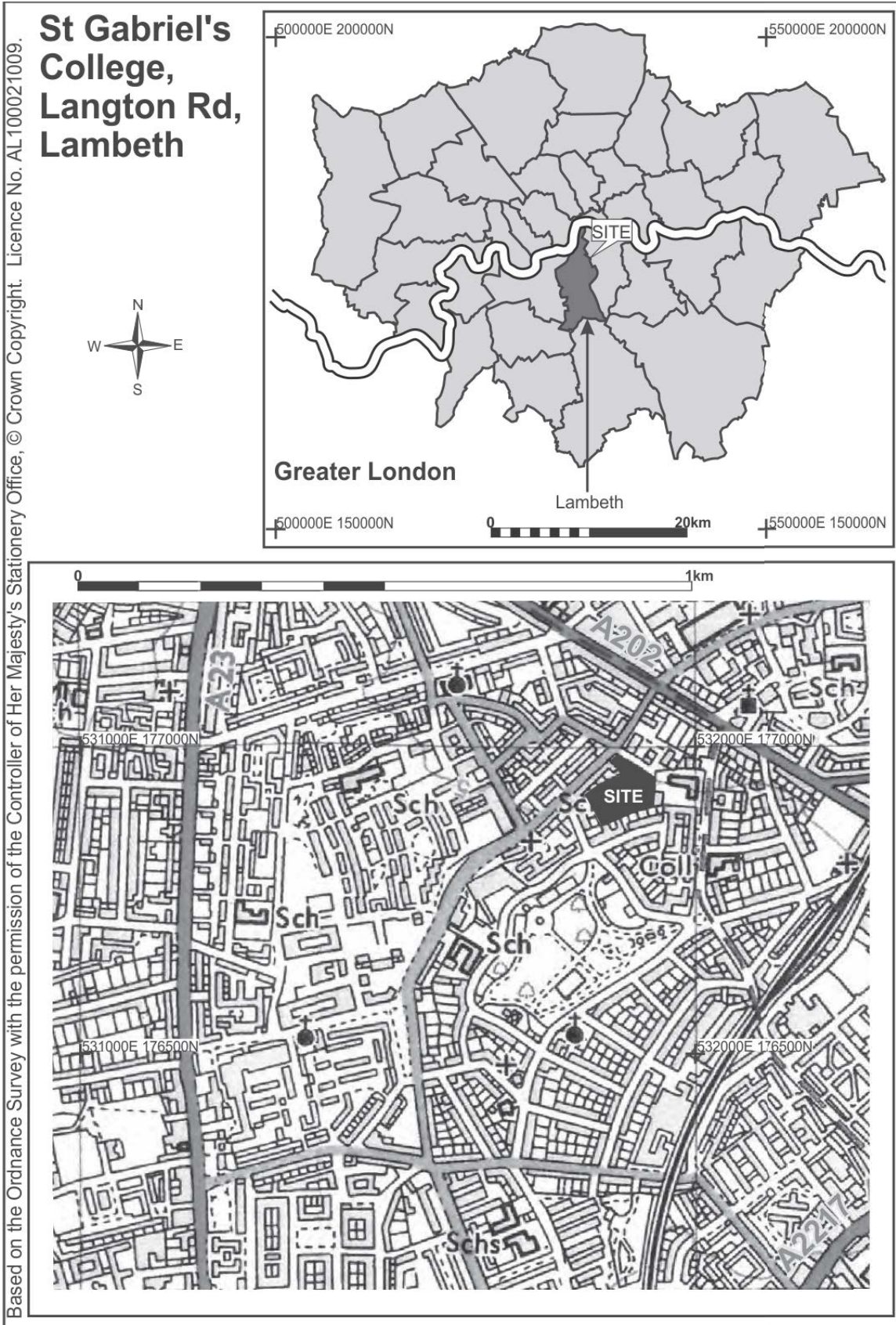


Fig. 1: Location maps (1:500,000 and 1:8,000).

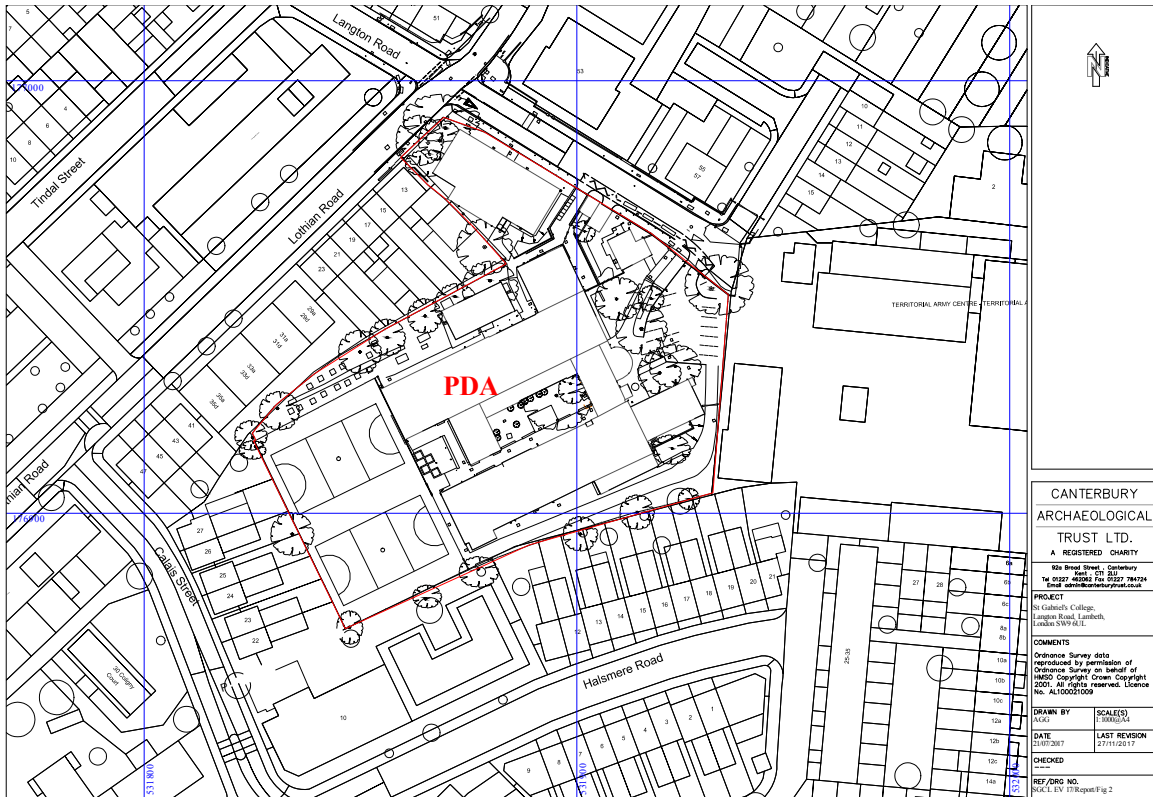


Figure 2: Detailed site location plan (showing the previous school buildings).

1.3.2 Modern ground level on the site dips gently from about 5.9m OD at the south-western corner to around 5.2m OD just north and east of the main building, dropping more rapidly to about 4.1m OD along the road frontages. Much or all of the higher ground has been made-up with redeposited brickearth and modern debris; the pre-modern slope was probably fairly uniform over the whole site.

1.3.3 At the time of evaluation, the original main block and caretaker's house had been demolished and the footprint of the proposed new building cleared of hardstanding. Additional ground reduction to remove contaminated soils (para. 1.2.2) had lowered the ground surface to approximately 4.4-4.8m OD. Outside the area of the trenches a pile mat of crushed demolition materials had been laid over parts of the site to an elevation of about 5.0m OD.

1.4 Geology

1.4.1 The watching brief on the geotechnical work confirmed bedrock under the site is formed by archaeologically sterile Palaeogene (Tertiary) London Clay, which was encountered at about 0.69 to 1.1m OD (Pratt 2016). This was overlain by gravels and sands thought to represent the late Pleistocene Kempton Park Gravel Formation overlain in turn by deposits of Langley Silt Member, clays and silts or 'brickearths' (intermittently present in the area according to the Geological Survey; <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). There was a suggestion that patches of late Pleistocene or early Holocene sands were present on, or within palaeochannels cutting into their surface. The site lies close to the Kempton Park

Terrace's boundary (which here roughly follows the 8m OD contour) with the higher and chronologically earlier Taplow Terrace a little to the south.

- 1.4.2 Within the Kempton Park Formation, what are known as the Trafalgar Square deposits (Ipswichian; MIS 5e) separate the Kempton Park Gravel into Lower and Upper divisions. Following Bridgland (1984) and Ellison *et al* (2004), the Kempton Park Gravel at Lambeth is likely to belong to the Upper division, of Devensian age (MIS 5d – 2; 120,000 – 20,000 years BP) (Bridgland 1984; Schreve *et al* 2011). There probably was no hominin occupation in the then isolated Britain during the preceding Ipswichian interglacial nor, probably, for parts of the Devensian (Ashton 2002; Ashton and Lewis 2002; Currant and Jacobi 2002; Schreve *et al* 2011). However, in MIS 4-3, lower sea-levels re-opened access from continental Europe and consequently this terrace is not devoid of artefacts elsewhere; e.g. Acton, (Wymer 1999), Earlsfield (Juby 2011). The presence of palaeochannels would also increase the chance for significant palaeoenvironmental evidence.

2 Archaeological background and potential

- 2.1 The following is a summary of the information presented in the archaeological desk-based assessment (Sparey-Green 2016, 5.6-5.18), drawing primarily on known sites and find-spots within a 500m radius of the nominal site centre.
- 2.2 *Prehistoric (c 500,000BP – AD 43)*
No archaeological remains of the pre-Roman period are reported within a 500m radius though their presence cannot be excluded. However, late Pleistocene/early Holocene fluvial deposits in the site area appear to be complex, with a potential for containing Palaeolithic flint implements or palaeoenvironmental remains, probably of regional significance.
- 2.3 *Romano-British (AD 43 – c 450)*
No Romano-British archaeological remains are reported within a 500m radius and Sparey-Green (2016, 9) suggests that the possibility of activity of this period on the site is low. The line of the Roman road ('The Bristol Causeway') close to or beneath the present Brixton Road, lies further to the west.
- 2.4 *Anglo-Saxon (c 450 – 1066)*
No Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains are reported within a 500m radius. The absence of any recorded medieval settlement nearer than that of Camberwell suggests that late Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity is unlikely to occur in the vicinity and so the possibility of archaeology of this date occurring within the PDA can be considered unlikely (*ibid*).
- 2.5 *Medieval (1066 – c 1540)*
No medieval archaeological remains have been reported within a 500m radius. However, the site may have lain within the western part of the Manor of Milkwell, the manor house situated 800m to the south-east, near Camberwell Green. This manor belonged to the Hospital of St Thomas, Southwark, and later, at the Dissolution, to St Mary Overy Priory. The site of the fourteenth-century 'le wyke' manor house, the predecessor of Loughborough House, lay to the south-west.

2.6 *Post-medieval (c 1540 – 1700)*

The only reported post-medieval archaeological remains which might extend onto the site are gravel pits noted on John Rocque's 1746 map of London, within the pasture fields immediately to its east. It should also be noted that immediately east of the gravel pits a complex area of gardens is depicted stretching back from the Camberwell Green frontage. This area west of Camberwell may, at the Dissolution in 1538, have been granted to Sir Thomas Wyatt.

2.7 *Early modern (c 1700 –1900)*

This land afterwards passed through various hands until, in 1745, it became the property of Sir Edward Knatchbull. In 1770 the estate passed to Hughes Minet, this estate now occupied by Myatt's Field Park, St Gabriel's College, the old Cormont Road School and the surrounding residential area. The current site lies within the northern limits of this estate, although excluded from the Minet Estate Conservation Area as presently defined. Although the Camberwell New Road had been laid out by 1805 and Vassall Road by 1828, maps of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries suggest that the agricultural fields continued in use, housing development limited to the new street frontages. Many of the early nineteenth-century terraced houses and the later church buildings on Vassall Road and Camberwell New Road are Listed Buildings. Most of the central area of the Minet estate to the south was occupied by Joseph Myatt's market garden from 1780 to the 1880s. In 1865 the First Surrey Rifle Volunteers moved their headquarters from Peckham to occupy land on the then Brunswick Road (now Flodden Road), the drill shed and reading room facing onto this road with a drill ground laid out adjacent and to the west. The current site occupies the greater western part of this drill ground. Over the following decades the surrounding roads were set out and terraces of houses built. By 1877 Lothian Road and Langton Road had been laid out to the north and west of the site and Flodden Road to the east, but Halsmere Road and Calais Street, to the south and south-east, followed later. To the south, the same period saw the laying out of Knatchbull Road and streets close to St James's church, and in 1889 the park named in memory of Myatt was opened and housing development on roads named in honour of the Minet family had been completed. In the late 1890s, to the south-west of the current site, the north-west frontage of Cormont Road was developed as the site of the St Gabriel's Church Training College, founded in 1899 for the training of women teachers.

2.8 *Modern (c 1900 – 2000)*

No modern archaeological remains are reported within a 500m radius but numerous buildings around the park and in the neighbouring streets have been accorded status as Listed Buildings. A chapel was added to the college on Cormont Road in 1903 and flats built to the east, towards Calais Street. Detached and semi-detached villas were built along Calais Street. The First Surrey Rifles served in the First World War in France until 1916 and later in the Middle East. Two battalions served abroad, leaving one battalion as a training unit, presumably on this site. A 1945 air photograph suggests the current site was then still open ground, west of the buildings of the Territorial Army base, then a Battalion Headquarters of the 129th Light Anti-Aircraft (LAA) Regiment of the Royal Artillery, serving in England. Standing buildings can be recognised on the Halsmere Road and Calais Street frontages but a series of six regularly placed pale marks on the open ground surface of the parade ground behind are unexplained. The absence of shadows suggests these are not structures or upstanding features. Myatt's Park to the south was the site of air raid shelters and a mooring point for a barrage balloon.

2.9 *Summary*

The late Pleistocene/early Holocene deposits appear to be complex, with a potential for containing Palaeolithic flint implements or palaeoenvironmental remains. The likelihood of later prehistoric or Romano-British activity on the site is fairly low and that of Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity probably lower, but any of these may survive beneath *in situ* medieval or later plough soils. Post-medieval gravel-extraction, which historical records suggest may extend onto the site, may be the origin of a deep feature identified near the site's north-eastern corner during the watching brief on geotechnical work and there may be associated structures. Features or buried materials from the adjacent military base, whose grounds extended onto the site from 1865 until after the Second World War, may also be present.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with those methods outlined in the WSI (CAT 2017a), and in accordance with methods of practice outlined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) and Historic England (2015).
- 3.2 The principal objective of the evaluation was to establish whether there were any surviving archaeological deposits or features at the site which may be affected by the proposed development, and relate them where possible, to the known archaeological/historical background. In doing so the evaluation would aim to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on the site and the impact of the proposed development on them.
- 3.3 The project also addressed site specific aims set out in the WSI, which referenced the research priorities established in the Museum of London's research framework for London (McAdam *et al* 2003). Namely:
- to develop an understanding of the natural landscape prior to any development (Framework Objective TL1) and of its development over time (Framework Objective TD2).
 - Early prehistoric: to improve the modelling, characterisation and dating of the late Pleistocene and, perhaps, early Holocene deposits and confirm or otherwise their geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential (Framework Objectives P1–P3).
 - Late prehistoric: add any later prehistoric finds to the distribution and characterisation of occupation in the Greater London area in that period (Framework Objectives P4–P6).
 - Roman: add finds of Roman date to existing data relating to the occupation and exploitation of *Londinium's* hinterland (Framework objectives R1–R2).
 - Anglo-Saxon: any identified Anglo-Saxon activity may contribute towards better dating (Framework Objective S1) and characterisation of rural settlement (Framework Objective S3).

- Medieval: activity, particularly post-dating the Great Plague of the fourteenth century, is likely to have been restricted to farming but any evidence for settlement or other exploitation will contribute towards understanding of rural organisation close to the capital (Framework Objectives M5–M6).
- Post-medieval: any structures or artefacts associated with farming, market gardening or gravel extraction could contribute towards the economic history of London and its environs (Framework Objectives L8–L9).
- Modern: military activity since 1865 in the form of buried structures, material or other items might illustrate not only military matters but how the populace related to them (Framework Objective L5).

4 Methodology

4.1 Fieldwork methodology

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with accepted professional standards as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). The specification called for a total of seven machine-cut evaluation trenches (trenches 1–7) to be investigated, in an array agreed with GLAAS prior to fieldwork commencing; however, trenches 5 and 7 were not excavated at this stage. With the agreement of Historic England's Archaeology Advisor, trench 5 was not cut due to restrictions of space, obstructions and potential contamination. Trench 7 was intended to be cut at a later date (following demolition of the Creative Arts Block) if, in the opinion of Historic England's archaeological adviser, the results of the earlier trenches suggested that its excavation (or, perhaps, a watching brief on excavation of the attenuation pit) might aid the overall aims of the evaluation.
- 4.1.2 The trenches measured between approximately 14 and 22m in length and were between 5.20 and 6.80m wide. After stepping of the trenches to expose the natural horizon (at depths exceeding 600mm), the base lengths varied between 10.40 and 22m in length and between 3.20 and 4.80m wide; this represented an approximate 4 per cent sample of the PDA (covering *c* 265m²). The trenches were cut from a reduced horizon prepared by the main contractor during preliminary enablement works (see section 1.2 above).
- 4.1.3 The trenches were set out in the positions indicated in the WSI and tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum using a differential global positioning system (GPS). Final positions have been digitally plotted using an AutoCAD graphics program (Fig 3).

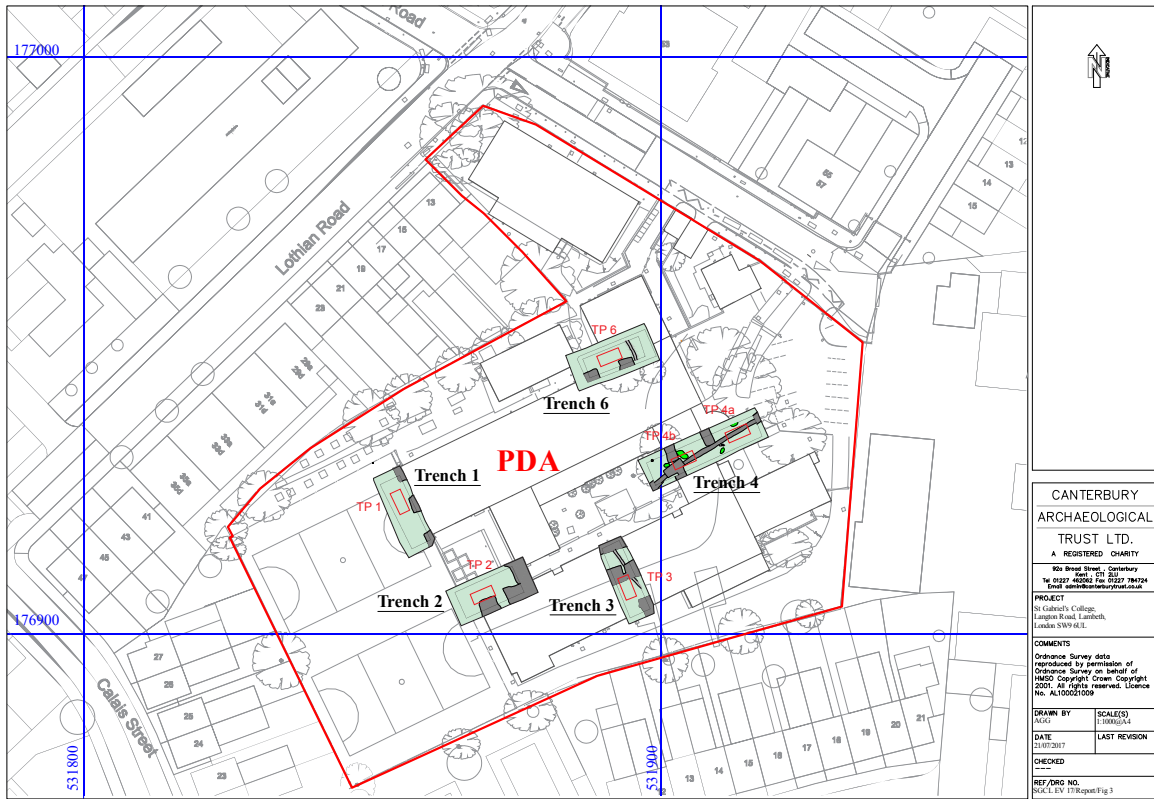


Figure 3: Trench Location Plan



Fig 4: Proposed trenches in relation to proposed construction details (1:500).

- 4.1.4 The trenches were excavated using a 14 tonne back-acting mechanical excavator fitted with 1.9 and 2.1m wide toothless ditching buckets, under close archaeological supervision. All undifferentiated topsoil, made ground, and modern overburden was removed in spits of *c* 100mm thickness. Any underlying ploughsoil and disturbed subsoil was then removed in *c* 50mm spits until either the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was encountered. All spoil was removed from the site.
- 4.1.5 Following machine clearance, the base and long section of each trench was inspected and cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Any identified archaeological deposits and features were subjected to sample excavation, by hand, to ascertain their extent, depth, date, character and quality. One long section was drawn at a scale of 1:20, and the base planned at a scale of 1:50; all were leveled with respect to Ordnance Datum (OD) using a temporary bench mark ascertained through differential GPS.
- 4.1.6 The geo-archaeological investigation was undertaken once each archaeological trench had been fully recorded. Single machine cut slots about 4m long and 2m wide were cut in the base of each trench, apart from in trench 4 where two were excavated. These were of varying depth, but in general, the depth of the trenches and unstable nature of the ground precluded access and they were recorded from the surface. Further details can be found in section 6 below.
- 4.1.7 A site specific method statement and risk assessment was also prepared by CAT (2017b). CAT personnel abided by CAT's own general safety policy, as well as that of the main contractor.

4.2 Recording

- 4.2.1 A unique-number site code (LGT 17) was agreed with the LAARC (London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (Museum of London)) before fieldwork commenced.
- 4.2.2 The trenches were recorded on CAT *pro forma* recording sheets following the conventions set out in the CAT site recording manual (CAT 1996) and each identified archaeological feature and deposit recorded. Any deposit that could be distinguished from those above and below was considered as a context and recorded individually; these stratigraphic units were numbered sequentially and are shown below in brackets e.g. (101). Where cut archaeological features have been identified, the cut is also considered a separate context or stratigraphic unit and is shown in square brackets, thus [100]. Photographic coverage employed digital photographs. Where identified, all artefacts were retrieved from stratified archaeological contexts. Retrieval of finds from non-stratified deposits removed by machine was carried out on an opportunistic basis.
- 4.2.3 The recording systems adopted during the investigations were compatible with those systems which have been in use the longest and most extensively across London, that is, those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, published by the Museum of London Archaeology Service.

4.3 Treatment of finds and samples

- 4.3.1 Apart from a small quantity of late post-medieval and modern ceramics, no significant artefactual material was recovered during the evaluation. The recent finds were recorded but not kept. Two soil samples were taken and processed as outlined in section 7 below.

4.4 Reports and archives

- 4.4.1 Finds and records are currently stored at Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent. The site archive is compatible with other archaeological archives in the LAARC and adheres to standards set out in the following:
- Archaeological Archive Forum, Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (2007)
 - Museum of London, General Standards for the preparation of archaeological archives deposited with the Museum of London (2009)
 - Museums and Galleries Commission's Standards in Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1992)
 - Society of Museum Archaeologist's draft Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections (1992)
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990)

4.5 Publication and dissemination of results

- 4.5.1 A short summary of the results of the work are attached (Appendix 1) and an OASIS report form has been completed.

5 Trench descriptions

5.1 Trench 1 (Figure 5.1 and 5.2, Plates 1 – 4)

Summary

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was positioned towards the north-western corner of the PDA, and was aligned roughly north-north-west to south-south-east. It initially measured approximately 15m in length and between 5.28 and 5.71m wide (covering an area of *c* 82m²), however after stepping this was reduced to 12.5m in length and 3.70m wide at its base (covering an area of *c* 46m²).
- 5.1.2 The initial machine excavation exposed natural subsoil in the base of the trench at elevations of +3.62–3.72m OD, indicating a slight slope down towards the north.
- 5.1.3 The natural subsoil comprised softly compacted mid pale ‘orangey’ brown (with yellow/brown mottling) sandy clay, with occasional pockets of mid/coarse-grained sands and small- to mid-sized (up to *c* 0.08m), sub-angular, sub-rounded and rounded flint pebbles/nodules/gravel. This was recorded as (100) and is thought to represent Kempton Park Gravel.
- 5.1.4 A machine cut sondage was excavated through the natural deposits to a depth of 2.5m below the natural surface (see Geological report below).
- 5.1.5 No cut archaeological features were identified, although three modern pits [106], [108] and [110] were recorded along the eastern side of the trench. These were associated with the previous college building (presumably foundation pits).
- 5.1.6 The natural level was sealed by a build-up of moderately compacted mid yellow grey-brown fine-grained sandy silt/clay (101) with occasional quantities of small- to mid-sized rounded sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles (0.02–0.06m). Apart from occasional charcoal flecking and worn fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) it was relatively sterile and devoid of datable cultural material. This deposit extended along the complete length of the trench, and was removed during the initial machine reduction. As recorded in section it was up to 0.32m thick, although there was a very diffuse horizon with the underlying natural (100). This deposit appears to represent a cultivated or developed soil horizon, such as a plough soil, formed partly through agricultural activities reworking the underlying natural deposit from which it is primarily derived; natural factors, such as bioturbation, chemical and/or physical erosion of the upper surface of the natural would also have contributed to its formation.
- 5.1.7 The above deposit was sealed by a buried topsoil horizon (102), which in turn had been overlain by redeposited natural clay (104). This appears to be a levelling deposit associated with the construction of the previous college buildings.

Description

Trench length: 15m (top) 12.5m (base) Width: 5.28–5.71m (top) 3.70m (base) Orientation: NNW-SSE				
Trench depth (to natural): 0.85m (N) – 0.73m (S) Exposed natural level: +3.62m OD (N) – +3.72m OD (S)				
<i>Context.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Thickness</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
100	Natural	Softly compacted mid pale ‘orangey’ brown, with yellow/brown mottling, sandy clay, with occasional pockets of mid/coarse-grained sands and small- to mid-sized flint gravel.		
101	Subsoil (plough /developed /accumulated soil horizon).	Moderately compacted mid yellow grey brown sandy silt/clay, occasional charcoal flecking, CBM fragments.	0.32m	Medieval/ Post-medieval/ modern
102	Buried topsoil	Moderately compacted mid to dark yellowy grey/brown sandy silt with occasional rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles/nodules, CBM fragments, charcoal flecking, china, clay pipe and glass.	0.20m	Post-medieval to Modern
103	Disturbed upper surface of the topsoil (possibly redeposited)	Softly compacted dark blackish grey brown silt, occasional charcoal flecking, coal fragments, CBM fragments, clay pipe and glass.	0.11- 0.20m	Modern
104	Made ground/levelling (redeposited natural clay)	Softly compacted (waterlogged) mid pale ‘orangey’ brown sandy clay, with occasional mixed flint. Seals (103) and [106], [108] and [110].	0.20m	Modern
105	Fill of [106]	Moderately compacted mixed redeposited natural orange/brown sandy clays and dark grey/brown sandy clay silts.	0.72m +	Modern
[106]	Modern feature	Feature partly exposed along the eastern LOE in the north-eastern corner of the trench; exposed length 1.20m+, width 0.50m+, depth 0.72m+. Sealed by (104) but truncates buried topsoil’s (102) and (103) suggests feature associated with the construction of the previous school buildings.		Modern
107	Fill of [108]	Same as (105). Moderately compacted mixed redeposited natural orange/brown sandy clays and dark grey/brown sandy clay silts.	0.88m	Modern
[108]	Modern feature	Feature partly exposed along the eastern LOE along the centre of the trench; exposed length 2.90m, width 0.50m+, depth 0.88m+. Sealed by (104) but truncates buried topsoil’s (102) and (103) suggests feature associated with the construction of the previous school buildings.		Modern
109	Fill of [110]	Same as (109). Moderately compacted mixed redeposited natural orange/brown sandy clays and dark grey/brown sandy clay silts.	0.44m	Modern
[110]	Modern feature	Feature partly exposed along the eastern LOE in the south-eastern corner of the trench; exposed length 1.80m+, width 0.65m+, depth 0.44m+. Sealed by (104) but truncates buried topsoil’s (102) and (103) suggests feature associated with the construction of the previous school buildings.		Modern

Table 1. Contexts, Trench 1

5.2 Trench 2 (Figure 5.3 and 5.4, Plates 5 – 7)

Summary

- 5.2.1 Trench 2 was positioned towards the south-western corner of the PDA, and was aligned roughly west-south-west-east to east-north-east. It initially measured approximately 14.65m in length and between 6.60 and 6.71m wide (covering an area of *c* 98.4m²), however after stepping this was reduced to 11m in length and between 4.70 and 4.80m wide at its base (covering an area of *c* 53.2m²).
- 5.2.2 The initial machine excavation exposed natural subsoil in the base of the trench at a relatively flat elevation of between +3.81 and +3.83 m OD.
- 5.2.3 Here the natural was recorded as (200) and although similar to that recorded in trench 1, was interpreted as Langley Silt. This overlay Kempton Park Gravel.
- 5.2.4 A machine cut sondage was excavated through the natural deposits to a depth of 4.8m below the natural surface (see Geological report below).
- 5.2.5 No cut archaeological features were identified, although several modern disturbances ([207], [209] and [211]) were recorded which are probably associated with recent demolition activity or (in the case of [207]) represent pre-existing service trenches.
- 5.2.6 As with trench 1 the natural subsoil was sealed by a build-up of a cultivated or developed soil horizon (201), primarily derived from the natural itself. This was sealed by buried topsoil horizons (202) and (203), which in turn had been overlain by redeposited natural clay (204) associated with the construction of the previous college buildings.

Description

Trench length: 14.65 m (top) 11m (base) Width: 6.60–6.71m (top) 4.70–4.80m (base) Orientation: WSW-ENE				
Trench depth (to natural): 0.76m (E) – 0.91m (W) Exposed natural level: +3.81m OD (W) – +3.83m OD (E)				
Context.	Interpretation	Description	Thickness	Date if known
200	Natural	Softly compacted mid pale ‘orangey’ brown, with yellow/brown mottling, sandy clay, with occasional pockets of mid/coarse-grained sands and small- to mid-sized flints gravel. Similar to that seen in trench 1.		
201	Subsoil (plough /developed /accumulated soil horizon).	Same as (101) in trench 1. Moderately compacted mid yellow grey brown sandy silt/clay, occasional charcoal flecking, CBM fragments; upper surface is very abrupt with (202) possibly truncated.	0.34m	Medieval/ Post-medieval/ modern
202	Buried topsoil	Moderately compacted mid to dark yellowy grey/brown sandy silt with occasional rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles/nodules, CBM fragments, charcoal and coal flecking/fragments.	0.22m	Post-medieval to Modern
203	Disturbed upper surface of the topsoil (possibly redeposited)	Softly compacted dark blackish grey brown silt, occasional charcoal flecking, coal fragments, CBM fragments, slate, clay pipe and glass.	0.36m	Modern
204	Made ground/levelling (redeposited natural clay)	Softly compacted mid pale ‘orangey’ brown sandy clay, with occasional mixed flint. Seals (203), relationship with [207], [209] and [211] has been lost due to recent unobserved ground reduction but is almost certainly truncated by these features.	0.20m	Modern
205	Made ground/levelling	Crushed concrete hardcore, laid down after recent demolition of school buildings and ground reduction.	0.35m	Modern/ recent
206	Fill of [207]	Redeposited natural clays and sands mixed with dark silts and building rubble	0.60m+	Modern/ recent
[207]	Modern disturbance	Modern feature associated either with recent demolition of previous school buildings or represents a service trench. Partly exposed running across the full length of the trench at its eastern end; exposed width 1.40m+, depth 0.60m+		Modern/ recent
208	Fill of [209]	Redeposited natural clays and sands mixed with dark silts and building rubble	0.60m+	Modern/recent
[209]	Modern disturbance	Modern feature associated with recent demolition of previous school buildings. Partly exposed running against the southern LOE of the trench (not recorded in section); exposed length 3.20m+, width 1.65m+, depth 0.60m+.		Modern/ recent
210	Fill of [211]	Redeposited natural clays and sands mixed with dark silts and building rubble	0.60m+	Modern/ recent
[211]	Modern disturbance	Modern feature associated with recent demolition of previous school buildings. Partly exposed running against the southern LOE of the trench (not recorded in section); exposed length 2.55m+, width 2.10m+, depth 0.60m+.		Modern/ recent

Table 2. Contexts, Trench 2

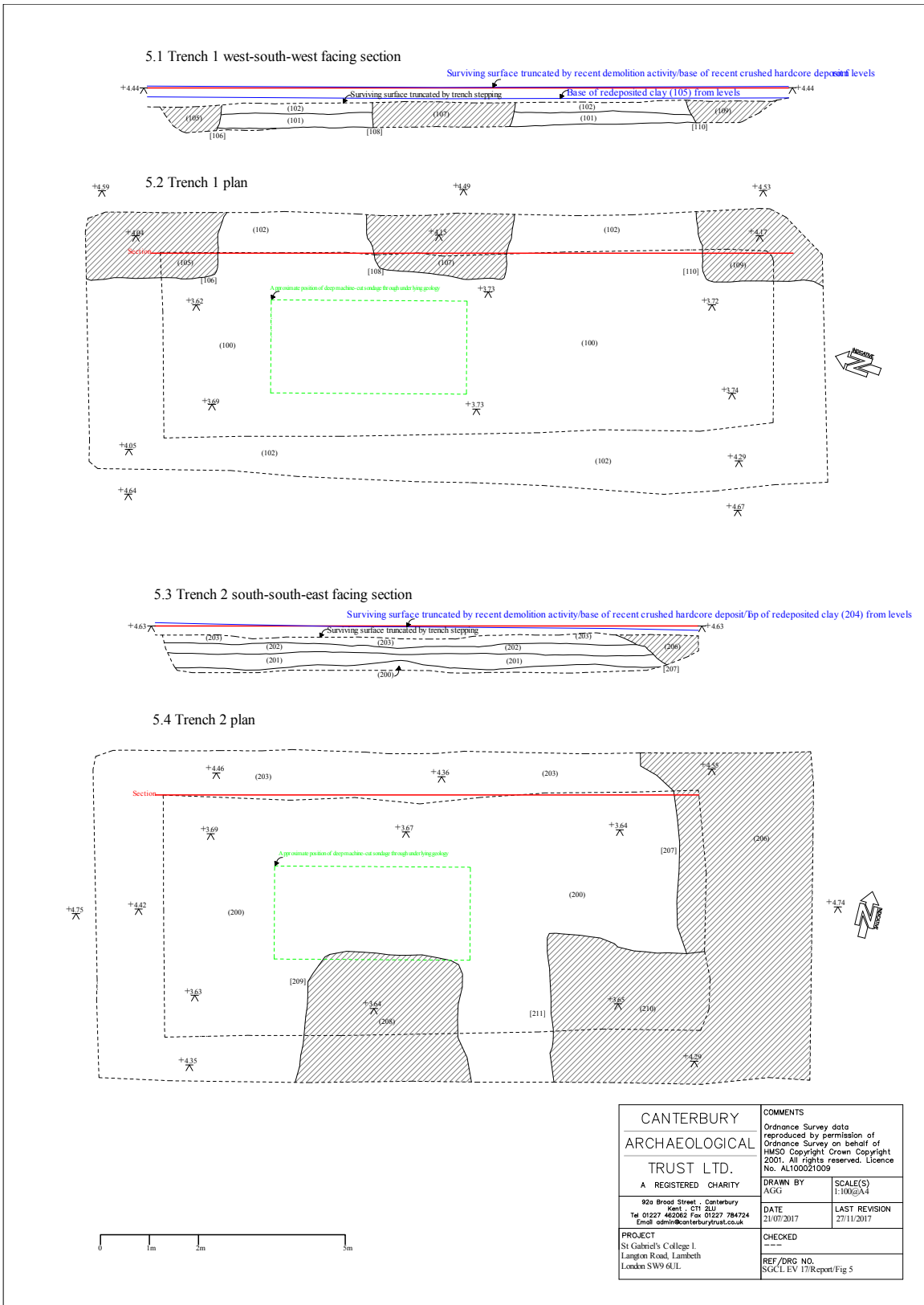


Figure 5: Trenches 1 and 2 plan and sections

5.3 Trench 3 (Figure 6.1 and 6.2, Plates 8 – 10)

Summary

- 5.3.1 Trench 3 was positioned centrally along the southern edge of the PDA, and was aligned roughly north-north-west to south-south-east. It initially measured *c* 14.5m in length and between 5.05 and 5.34m wide (covering an area of *c* 74m²), however after stepping this was reduced to 13.15m in length and between 3.20 and 3.80m wide at its base (covering an area of *c* 47m²).
- 5.3.2 The initial machine excavation exposed natural subsoil in the base of the trench at elevations of +3.57–+3.69m OD, indicating a slight slope down towards the north.
- 5.3.3 The natural subsoil comprised softly compacted mid pale yellow-‘orangey’ brown, silty mid- to coarse-grained sand, with occasional pockets of moderately compacted sandy clays and small- to mid-sized (up to *c* 0.08m), sub-angular, sub-rounded and rounded flint gravel. This was recorded as (300) and may represent Langley Silt, overlying Kempton Park Gravel.
- 5.3.4 A machine cut sondage was excavated through the natural deposits to a depth of 2.8m below the natural surface (see Geological report below).
- 5.3.5 A narrow linear feature [314] of approximate north-north-west to south-south-east alignment was identified cutting the upper surface of the natural; this was, exposed for a length of 4.75m. Sample excavation revealed it to have a 'U' shape profile 0.45m wide with a maximum depth of 0.17m. The feature contained a sterile grey sandy clay fill (313). Although the fill was suggestive of a natural feature, the gully was straight and perhaps represented the base of a field boundary.
- 5.3.6 No further cut archaeological features were identified, although several modern features ([304], [306] and [308]) were recorded as present. Of these [304] and [306] are probably associated with recent demolition activity, whilst [308] is thought to be associated with the college buildings.
- 5.3.7 The natural level was sealed by a build-up of a cultivated or developed soil horizon (301), primarily derived from the natural itself. This was sealed by a buried topsoil horizon (302), which in turn had been overlain by redeposited natural clay (312) associated with the construction of the college buildings.

Description

Trench length: 14.5m (top) 13.15m (base) Width: 5.05–5.34m (top) 3.20–3.80m (base) Orientation: NNW-SSE				
Trench depth (to natural): 0.87m (S) – 1.10m (N) Exposed natural level: +3.69m OD (S) – +3.57m OD (N)				
<i>Context.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Thickness</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
300	Natural	Softly compacted mid pale yellowy ‘orangey’ brown, silty mid- to coarse-grained sand, with occasional pockets of moderately compacted sandy clays and gravel.		
301	Subsoil (plough /developed /accumulated soil	Soft to moderately compacted mid pale ‘orangey’ grey brown, with brown mottling, silt sand. Very occasional small-sized flint pebbles/fragments;	0.22 - 0.32m	Medieval/ Post-medieval/ modern

	horizon).	sterile.		
302	Buried topsoil	Moderately compacted mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles/nodules, CBM fragments, charcoal and coal flecking/fragments.	0.40m	Post-medieval to Modern
303	Made ground/levelling	Crushed concrete hardcore, laid down after recent demolition of school buildings and ground reduction.	0.10 - 0.20m	Modern/ recent
[304]	Modern disturbance	Modern feature perhaps associated with recent demolition of previous school buildings. Exposed running across the trench at its northern end; exposed length 3.20m+, width 1.28m+, depth 0.58m+.		Modern/ recent
305	Fill of [304]	Moderately compacted mixed redeposited natural orange/brown sandy clays and dark grey/brown sandy clay silts.	0.58m	Modern/ recent
[306]	Modern disturbance	Modern feature perhaps associated with recent demolition of previous school buildings. Exposed running across the centre of the trench; exposed length 3.20m+, width 1.05 - 2.90m, depth 0.66m+.		Modern/ recent
307	Fill of [306]	Moderately compacted mixed redeposited natural orange/brown sandy clays and dark grey/brown sandy clay silts.	0.66m	Modern/ recent
[308]	Modern feature	Feature partly exposed in the south-eastern corner of the trench, infilled by (309), (310) and (311); exposed length 2.20m+, width 1.50m+, depth 0.62m+. Relationship to overlying made grounds has been lost, however it is thought that this feature predates/ is associated with the construction of the school - possibility that borehole 5 (Pratt 2016) went through this feature.		Modern
309	Fill of [308]	Lower fill of [308]. Redeposited natural 'orange' sand silt; clay pipe stem and 20th century pottery present.	0.18m	Modern
310	Fill of [308]	Moderately compacted dark greyish brown sandy silt; topsoil like either redeposited within feature or formed whilst pit still open.	0.14m	Modern
311	Fill of [308]	Upper fill of [308]. Redeposited natural 'orange' brown grey sands and gravels; 20th cent brick and other CBM present.	0.49m	Modern
312	Made ground/levelling (redeposited natural clay)	Softly compacted mid grey brown silty sand, with abundant mixed flint gravels. Seals (302), truncated by [304] and [306], relationship with [308] has been lost due to recent unobserved ground reduction but is thought to seal this feature.	0.20m	Modern
313	Fill of [314]	Moderately compacted slightly yellowish pale grey sandy clay, frequent small-sized rounded and sub-rounded flint pebbles/gravel; sterile.	0.17m	Unknown
[314]	Linear/geological feature or truncated ditch	Narrow linear feature of approximate north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, exposed length 4.75m+, width 0.45m; sample excavation revealed maximum depth of 0.17m with extended 'U' shape profile. Sterile nature and clay fill suggest a natural feature, however is straight and forms same alignment as linear feature [612] seen in trench 6.		Unknown

Table 3. Contexts, Trench 3

5.4 Trench 4 (Figs 6.3–6.4; Plates 11 – 14)

Summary

- 5.4.1 Trench 4 was positioned towards the south-eastern corner of the PDA, and was aligned roughly west-south-west to east-north-east. It initially measured *c* 22.20m in length and between 5.58 and 5.92m wide (covering an area of *c* 128m²), however after stepping this was reduced to 20.40m in length and between 3.92 and 4.20m wide at its base (covering an area of *c* 83m²).
- 5.4.2 The machine excavation exposed natural subsoil in the base of the trench at an elevation of between +3.53 and +3.82 m OD, indicating a marked slope down towards the east.
- 5.4.3 Here the natural subsoil was recorded as (400) and is similar to that recorded in trench 3, and is thought to represent Langley Silt overlying Kempton Park Gravel.
- 5.4.4 Two machine cut sondages (4a and 4b) were excavated through the natural deposits to a depth of 3.7m and 3.6m below the natural surface respectively (see Geological report below).
- 5.4.5 The natural was sealed by a similar sequence of subsoil (401) and old topsoil (402) deposits as found elsewhere on the site.
- 5.4.6 Feature [415] was a small sub-circular cut, thought to represent a post-hole or a small pit, measuring *c*. 0.28m diameter, 0.25m deep with 'U' shaped profile and slightly concave base. Two infilling deposits were present (413) and (414). Of these (414) represented a thin band of charcoal along the base and edges; there was also evidence of *in situ* burning of the surrounding natural level. Apart from the charcoal, no further cultural material was present. Environmental samples <1> and <2> were taken from (413) and (414), respectively; both samples were contaminated by modern material but context (414) yielded some charred hazelnut shell fragments.
- 5.4.7 The second feature [425] was poorly defined cut possibly representing a shallow depression or shallow pit sub-oval in shape with a length of 0.37m, width of 0.25m, and a shallow depth of 0.05m. The fill (424) contained very occasional charcoal flecking and a single fragment of undiagnostic tile (possibly medieval).
- 5.4.8 Further features identified within the natural were investigated but seen as naturally formed depressions infilled with concentrations of manganese panning (416), (417), (418) and (419).
- 5.4.9 Several modern disturbances were recorded, including service trenches and manholes associated with the previous college buildings, and [408], and [410] which are possibly associated with recent demolition activity.
- 5.4.10 The natural was sealed by a build-up of a cultivated or developed soil horizon (401), primarily derived from the natural itself. This was sealed by a buried topsoil horizon (402), which in turn had been overlain by redeposited natural clays and silts (403) and (404) associated with the construction of the previous college buildings.

Description

Trench length: 22.2m (top) 20.4m (base) Width: 5.58–5.92m (top) 3.92 – 4.20m (top) Orientation: WSW-ENE				
Trench depth (to natural): 0.98m (W) – 1.30m (E) Exposed natural level: +3.82m OD (W) – +3.53m OD (E)				
<i>Context.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Thickness</i>	<i>Date if known</i>
400	Natural	Softly compacted mid pale yellowy 'orangey' brown, slightly clayey/silty mid- to coarse-grained sand (similar to (300)), with occasional pockets of moderately to stiffly compacted sandy clays and gravel with manganese staining.		
401	Subsoil (plough /developed /accumulated soil horizon)	Soft to moderately compacted mid pale yellowy grey brown silt sand. Very occasional small-sized flint pebbles/fragments and manganese staining; sterile.	0.36m	Medieval/Post-medieval/modern
402	Buried topsoil	Moderately compacted mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles/nodules, and CBM fragments.	0.58m	Post-medieval to Modern
403	Made ground/levelling (redeposited topsoil)	Softly compacted dark blackish grey brown silt, occasional charcoal flecking, coal fragments, CBM fragments, clay pipe and glass. Possibly disturbed topsoil but very abrupt interface with lower deposit (402).	0.10m	Modern
404	Made ground/levelling (redeposited natural clay)	Softly compacted mid grey brown silty sand, with abundant mixed flint gravels. Seals (302), truncated by [304] and [306], relationship with [308] has been lost due to recent ground reduction but is thought to seal this feature.	0.20m	Modern
405	Made ground/levelling	Layer of (imported) sand.	0.20m	Modern/recent
406	Made ground/levelling	Crushed concrete hardcore, laid down after recent demolition of school buildings and ground reduction.	0.25m	Modern/recent
407	Fill of [408]	Redeposited natural clays and sands mixed with dark silts and building rubble	0.79m+	Modern/recent
[408]	Modern disturbance	Modern feature associated with recent demolition of previous school buildings. Partly exposed running against the northern LOE of the trench; exposed length 1.30m+, width 1.65m, depth 0.79m+.		Modern/recent
409	Fill of [410]	Redeposited natural clays and sands mixed with dark silts and building rubble	0.79m+	Modern/recent
[410]	Modern disturbance	Modern feature associated with recent demolition of previous school buildings. Exposed in the centre of the trench; length 2.40m, width 1.75m, depth 0.79m+.		Modern/recent
411	Fill of [412]	Fill of modern service trench, contained 6 pipes.	0.30m	Modern/recent
[412]	Service trench	Runs across the trench at its eastern end, width 0.80m, depth 0.30m+.		Modern/recent
413	Fill of [415]	Upper fill of [415]. Softly compacted mid yellowish grey brown silty sand, occasional charcoal flecking, manganese staining and small-sized sub-rounded flint gravel. Sampled as <1>	0.23m	Unknown
414	Fill of [415]	Lower fill of [415] adhering to sides and base. Predominantly charcoal mixed with moderately compacted clayey sand; believed to have been heated. Sampled as <2>	0.05m	Unknown
[415]	Pit/post-hole (?)	Small sub-circular feature c0.28m diameter, 0.25m		Unknown

		deep with 'U' shaped profile and slightly concave base. Evidence of in situ burning of surrounding natural. Sealed by subsoil horizon (401).		
416	Natural	Anomaly in the natural, no cut assigned		
417	Natural	Anomaly in the natural, no cut assigned		
418	Natural	Anomaly in the natural, no cut assigned		
419	Fill of [420]	Softly compacted mid grey 'orangey' brown silt sand	0.10m	
[420]	Natural feature/depression	Depression in natural was sample excavated, length 1.10m, width 0.50m, 0.10m deep.	0.15 - 0.24	
421	Natural	Anomaly in the natural, no cut assigned		
422	Fill of [423]	Redeposited natural clays and sands mixed with dark silts and building rubble	0.79m+	Modern/recent
[423]	Modern disturbance	Modern feature associated with recent demolition of previous school buildings; or a service trench; exposed length 3.60m+, width 2.50m, depth 0.79m+.		Modern/recent
424	Fill of [425]	Softly compacted mid yellowish grey brown silty sand, very occasional charcoal and one fragment of undiagnostic tile (possibly medieval).	0.05m	Medieval/Post-medieval
[425]	Small pit	Poorly defined feature, irregular/sub-oval length 0.37m, width 0.25m, depth 0.05m. Possibly a depression - unclear.		Medieval/Post-medieval

Table 4. Contexts, Trench 4

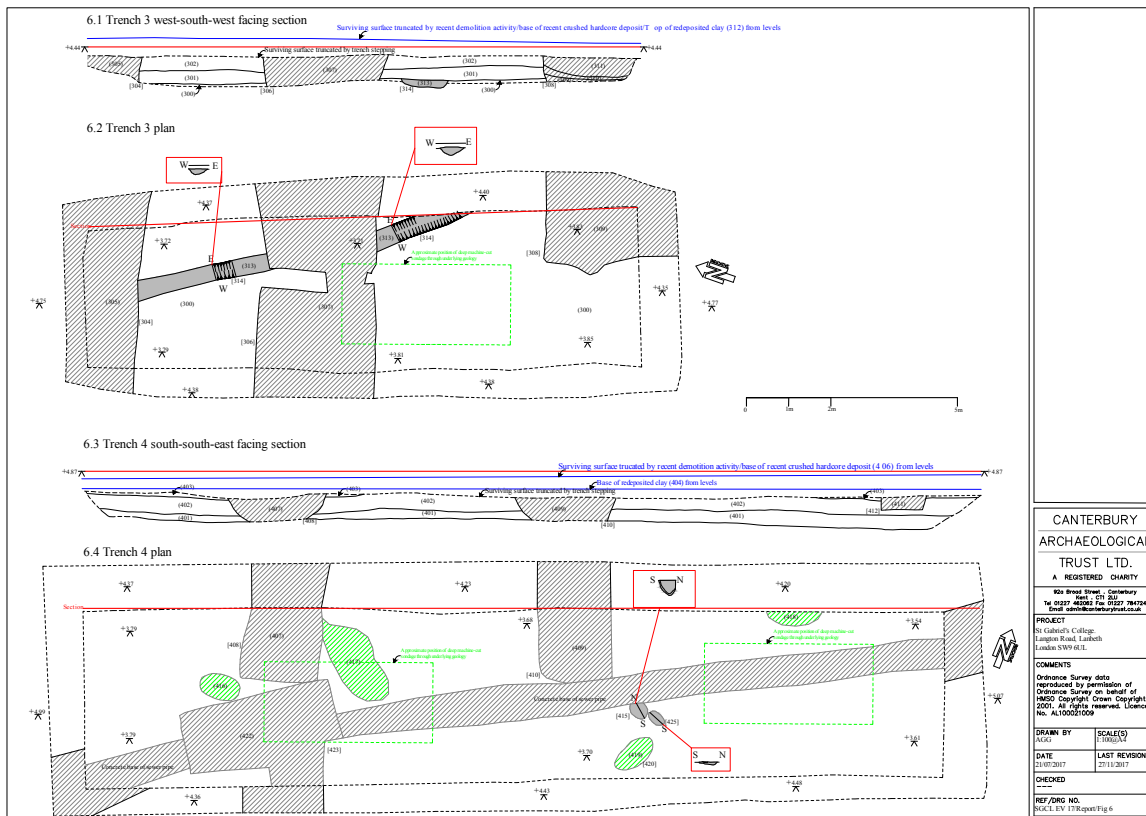


Figure 6: Trenches 3 and 4 plan and sections

5.5 Trench 5

Summary

- 5.5.1 Trench 5 was not excavated.

5.6 Trench 6 (Figure 7.1 and 7.2, Plates 15 – 17)

Summary

- 5.6.1 Trench 6 was positioned along the northern edge of the PDA, and was aligned roughly west-south-west to east-north-east. It initially measured approximately 14.90m in length and between 5.30 and 5.65m wide (covering an area of *c* 100m²), however after stepping this was reduced to 10.40m in length and between 3.50 and 3.65m wide at its base (covering an area of *c* 37m²).
- 5.6.2 The initial machine excavation exposed natural subsoil in the base of the trench at a relatively flat elevation of between +3.51 and +3.56 m OD; indicating a slight slope down towards the east.
- 5.6.3 Here the natural was recorded as (600), similar to that recorded in trenches 3 and 4, and is thought to represent Langley Silt overlying Kempton Park Gravel.
- 5.6.4 A machine cut sondage was excavated through the natural deposits to a depth of 4.2m below the natural surface (see Geological report below).
- 5.6.5 A narrow linear feature was identified in the upper surface of the natural (recorded as [610] and [612]) of approximate north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, exposed for a length 3.60m. Sample excavation revealed it had a width of 0.60m, a maximum depth of 0.30m and a U shape profile which contained a sterile sandy silt (609/611). The feature possibly represents the base of a field boundary ditch.
- 5.6.6 No further cut archaeological features were identified, although modern features ([606], and [608]) were recorded as present. Both are associated with recent demolition activity.
- 5.6.7 The natural was sealed by a build-up of a cultivated or developed soil horizon (601), primarily derived from the natural itself. This was sealed by a buried topsoil horizon (602), which in turn had been overlain by redeposited natural clay (603) associated with the construction of the previous college buildings.

Description

Trench length: 14.90m (top) 10.40m (base) Width: 6.50–6.80m (top) 3.50–3.65m (top) Orientation: WSW-ENE				
Trench depth (to natural): 0.93m (E) – 1.02m (W) Exposed natural level: +3.51m OD (E) – +3.56m OD (W)				
Context.	Interpretation	Description	Thickness	Date if known
600	Natural	Softly compacted mid pale yellowy 'orangey' brown, slightly clayey/silty mid- to coarse-grained sand, with abundant pockets of moderately to moderately compacted gravel. Similar to (400) with more gravel.		
601	Subsoil (plough /developed /accumulated soil horizon).	Soft to moderately compacted mid pale yellowy grey brown sandy silty. Very occasional small-sized flint pebbles/fragments and manganese staining; sterile.	0.25m	Medieval/Post-medieval/modern
602	Buried topsoil	Moderately compacted mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles/nodules, and CBM fragments. Very abrupt horizon with underlying deposit (601), may suggest topsoil has been stripped and put back.	0.28m	Post-medieval to Modern
603	Made ground/levelling (redeposited natural clay)	Softly compacted mid grey brown silty sand, with abundant mixed flint gravels. Seals (602), truncated by [606] and [608].		Modern/recent
604	Made ground/levelling	Crushed concrete hardcore, laid down after recent demolition of school buildings and ground reduction.		Modern/recent
605	Fill of [606]	Redeposited natural clays and sands mixed with dark silts and building rubble, concrete slab left in base.	1.47m+	Modern/recent
[606]	Modern disturbance	Modern feature associated with recent demolition of previous school buildings; exposed length 2.50m, width 0.90m+, depth 1.47m+.		Modern/recent
607	Fill of [608]	Redeposited natural clays and sands mixed with dark silts and building rubble	1.47m+	Modern/recent
[608]	Modern disturbance	Modern feature associated with recent demolition of previous school buildings; exposed length 2.00m+, width 1.15m, depth 1.47m+.		Modern/recent
609	Fill of [610]	Moderately compacted mid to pale brownish grey sandy silt with moderate quantities of small- to medium-sized flint pebble/gravels, one possible struck flint.		Unknown
[610]	Linear feature (boundary ditch/gully)	Linear feature cutting across the trench at an approximate north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. Exposed length 3.60m, width up to 0.60m, depth 0.30m. Sides are diffuse - possibly former field boundary ditch.		Unknown
611	Fill of [612]	As (609)		Unknown
[612]	Linear feature (boundary ditch/gully)	As [610]		Unknown

Table 5. Contexts, Trench 6

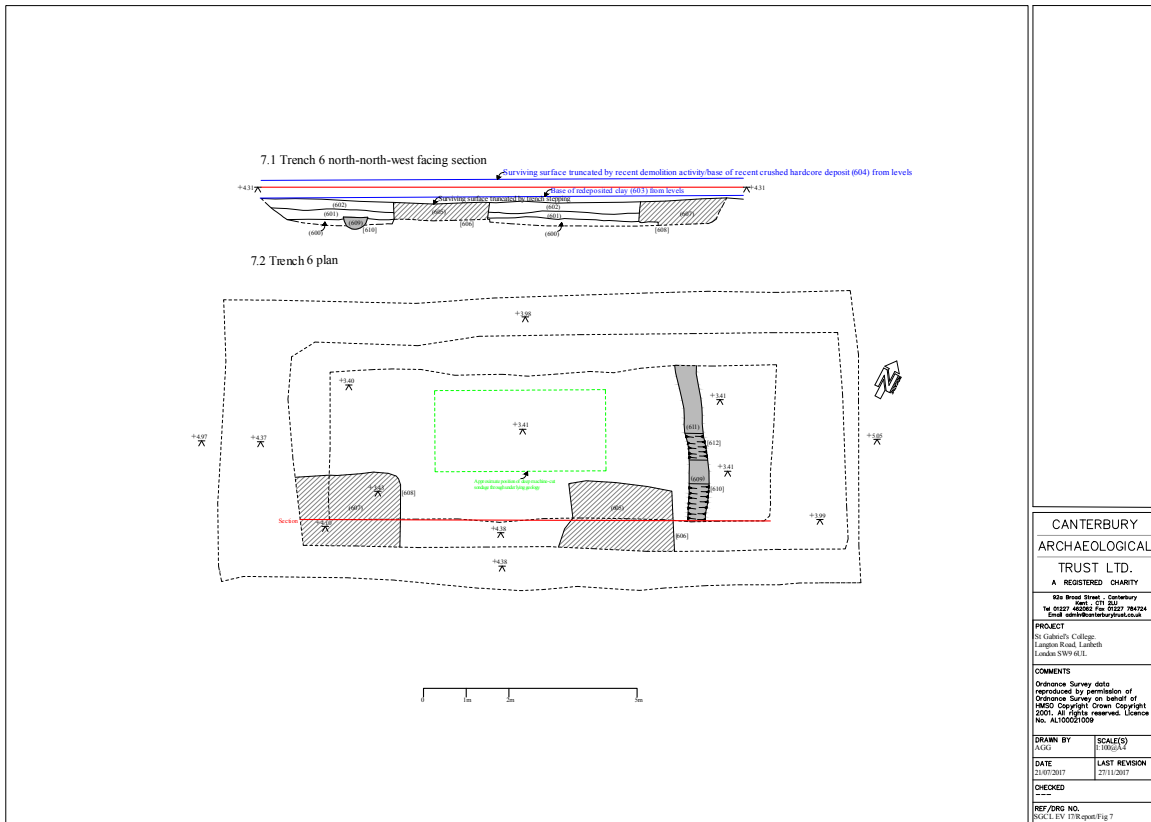


Figure 7: Trench 6 plan and sections

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PROJECT St Gabriel's College, Langton Road, Lambeth, London SW9 6JL	
COMMENTS Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of OS/ESD. Copyright Crown Copyright 2001. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100001008	
DRAWN BY AGK	SCALE(S) 1:100(A, V)
DATE 21.11.2017	LAST REVISION 21.11.2017
CHECKED ---	
REF./FIG NO. B&C.1.1.V.175 (app. 8) Fig 7	

5.7 Trench 7

Summary

5.7.1 Trench 7 was not excavated, its position is currently occupied by a college building.

6 The geoarchaeological evaluation

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6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Site context

6.1.1.1 This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological investigations undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development at St Gabriel's College, London Borough of Lambeth (Figs 1 & 2). The work was commissioned and carried out in collaboration with Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

6.1.2 *Local topography and geology*

6.12.1 The site lies on an extensive flat area, at approximately 5.0m OD, about 2km south of the Thames. To the south the land rises slightly over a distance of 2km from *c* 8m to 15m OD at Brixton and then rises steeply to *c* 50m OD at Streatham Hill and Tulse Hill. The underlying bedrock is London Clay and Lambeth Formation, overlain by Kempton Park Gravel and, on the slightly higher ground Taplow Terrace gravel. Intermittently overlying the terrace deposits is Langley Silt. The steeper slopes towards Streatham Hill and Tulse Hill expose London Clay and are capped by Boyn Hill Gravel.

6.1.2.2 The natural slope of the ground surface at the site is from 5.9m OD at its south-west limit, falling to 5.2m OD in the north-east. The surface bedrock of London Clay rises from -0.7m OD in the north to +1.1m OD in the south, but none of the trial pits reached the Clay. Above this is the Kempton Park Gravel, varying from being sandy gravel to sand. Its surface ranges from 2.8 to 4.2m OD and varying in exposed thickness from 2.3 to 4.0m minimum (as the Unit was not bottomed in any of the trial pits). Resting on this is the Langley Silt, varying from being silty clay to silty sand and in thickness from 0.2 to 0.9m, covering an altitudinal range from 3.1 to 4.0m OD. No Langley Silt was noted in TP1 and uncertainly identified in TP3.

6.1.3 *Geoarchaeological, Pleistocene and Palaeolithic potential*

6.1.3.1 The site has the potential to contain both Pleistocene and Palaeolithic remains. Pleistocene remains are the geological and biological deposits laid down by various agents – water, wind and ice between 2.6 million and 11,500 years ago. In some places, artefacts, plant and animal remains are contained within Pleistocene deposits. Palaeolithic remains therefore form part of the Pleistocene record and can include stone tools and the flakes produced when making them, and, much more rarely, tools of wood and bone, bones bearing marks of butchery, rudimentary structures and the remains of early humans (hominins). Such remains are important as they are the evidence that enables us to understand our earliest prehistory – how the landscape of Britain was shaped and where and how our earliest ancestors fit into it. In reality, the potential for Palaeolithic remains is negligible on the site, as there is currently no evidence for the presence of humans in the British Isles during the period of Kempton Park Gravel accumulation.

6.1.3.2 Even in the absence of artefact remains, the Pleistocene sediments and their contained biological remains can be significant as they enable the reconstruction of landforms, climatic conditions and environments occupied by Palaeolithic hominins. In many cases we already have, in museum collections, artefacts from geological units equivalent to those being investigated (often river terrace gravels), but because of the way in which Palaeolithic artefacts were collected in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, we often lack the environmental record that modern investigations of the deposits can supply. In addition, it is important to build up an understanding of the way in which the character and preservation of Pleistocene remains varies from place to place, even in the same geological unit. Recent advances in direct dating techniques, including OSL (optically stimulated luminescence), ESR (electron spin resonance), and AAR (amino acid racemization), have added further significance to Pleistocene remains, enabling us to achieve more reliable dating, relevant both to artefacts and to an understanding of landscape evolution.

6.1.4 *Aims and objectives*

- 6.1.4.1 The main aims of the investigation were to: (1) observe and record the sediments excavated; (2) interpret the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site and (3) highlight sediments of potential Geoarchaeological, Pleistocene or Palaeolithic significance.

6.2 **Methods** (Fig 3)

- 6.2.1 Six trial pits (TP 1, TP 2, TP 3, TP4 a, TP 4b and TP 6) were cut for geoarchaeological purposes. The points designated for TP 5 and TP 7 were not accessible; a part compensation was to sink two pits in Archaeological Trench 4, one at either end (TP 4a, 4b). The investigated pits were initially 4m x 2m but a narrower bucket was used for deeper parts of the pits. The intention was to reach the Kempton Park Gravel and establish a depositional model for the sediments. The trial pits reached depths between 3.0 and 4.8m, but there was immediate sidewall collapse in every case, apart from TP 1, so the pits were not entered and were recorded by geological logging at a scale of 1:25 (4 cm = 1 m) and photography, with a surveying staff as a scale. Detailed examination of the Kempton Park Gravels was therefore not feasible, except for TP 1, from which three samples of 100 litres were sieved through a 10mm mesh. A similar sample was sieved from gravels in TP 2 however.

6.3 **Results & interpretation of the geoarchaeological investigations**

- 6.3.1 Tabulated descriptions, logs and annotated photographs are provided for trial pits TP 1 to TP 6 (Tables 6-11, Figs 8 - 19).
- 6.3.2 Significant amounts of gravel occur in TP 1 and TP 6 which are in the north-west part of the site, and sand predominates in the central and south-eastern areas in TP's 2, 3, 4a, 4b, though TP 6 actually has more sand than gravel. The sand rests on gravel in TP 4a. The sand and the gravel are assumed to be lateral equivalents. As gravel is more predominant in the north-west and sand in the south-east, it is possible that the gravels represent a main channel and the sands a lateral position where the water flow was less strong.
- 6.3.3 Overlying the sands and gravel there are silts and clayey, silty sands varying between 0.2 and 0.8m thick in TP 2, 4a, 4b and 6, but absent in TP 1 and uncertainly present in TP 3.
- 6.3.4 The gravels and sands are attributed to the Kempton Park Gravel where there is a little or no silt or clay present and primary bedding structures can be seen. The Gravel was not bottomed in any trial pit, but the observed exposures lay within the height range of 4.2 to 0.1m OD, which is appropriate for that designation (Gibbard 1985). No humanly struck flint was found.
- 6.3.5 The silts and the clayey and silty sands are attributed to the Langley Silt. The clays and silts are likely to have been derived from the London Clay or Lambeth Formation by erosion of terraces upstream resting on those deposits.
- 6.3.6 Defining the Langley Silt lithologically is imprecise as its composition varies from 'sandy silt to little more than recycled London or Reading Clay' (Gibbard 1985). It is possible that some of the silty sands are wrongly attributed because the Kempton Park Gravels can include silty elements. Cross-sections show sediments that are attributable to both the Kempton Park Gravel and the Langley Silt present over much of the site (Pratt 2016 and

Figs 21 - 24), though the present works suggest that the latter was thinner or not present to the west.

- 6.3.7 There is altitudinal overlap between the Kempton Park Gravel (0.1 – 4.2m OD) and the Langley Silt (3.1 – 4.4m OD) and transects TX1 and TX6 (Pratt 2016) suggest this may have been up to 1.5m. It is possible that there was minor channelling into the Gravel, before the Silt was deposited, but equally the topographic range of gravels surfaces in a braided river system could be of that magnitude.
- 6.3.8 The trial pits were not spread closely enough to confirm a channel present between BH4 and BH5 (Fig 21), as previously thought possible (Pratt 2016).
- 6.4.9 The deformation of the bedding noted in TP 1 (Unit 1.4), TP 3 (3.4) and TP 4b (4b.4) are likely to have occurred during periods of saturation of the sediments, possibly due to thawing of ground ice as cold (periglacial) conditions were coming to an end.

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit	Stratigraphy
0.0 – 0.5	4.1 – 3.6	0.5	Soil and sub-soil	1.1	
0.5 – 0.8	3.6 – 3.3	0.3	Clayey gravel and coarse sand, strong brown (7.5YR4/6) with yellowish red (5YR5/8) mottles	1.2	KPGg
0.8 – 1.1	3.3 – 3.0	0.3	Gravel and coarse sand, strong brown (7.5YR4/6) with some yellowish red (5YR5/8) mottling. 100 L sieved – no finds	1.3	KPGg
1.1 – 2.1	3.0 – 2.0	1.0	Gravel and coarse sand, mostly strong brown (7.5YR4/6) but bedding deformed. 100 L sieved – no finds	1.4	KPG g
2.1 – 2.6	2.0 – 1.5	0.5	Sand	1.5	KPGs
2.7 – 3.0	1.5 – 1.1	0.4	Sandy gravel. 100 L sieved – no finds	1.6	KPGg

Table 6: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit TP1
KPGg/s – Kempton Park Gravel, gravelly/sandy

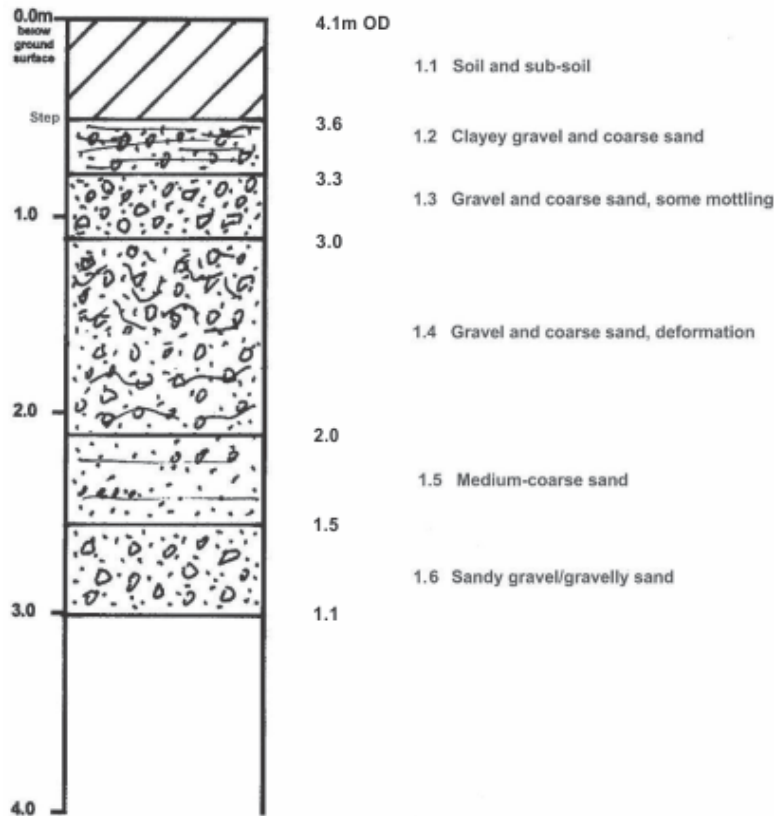


Figure 8: Trial Pit TP 1, graphic log

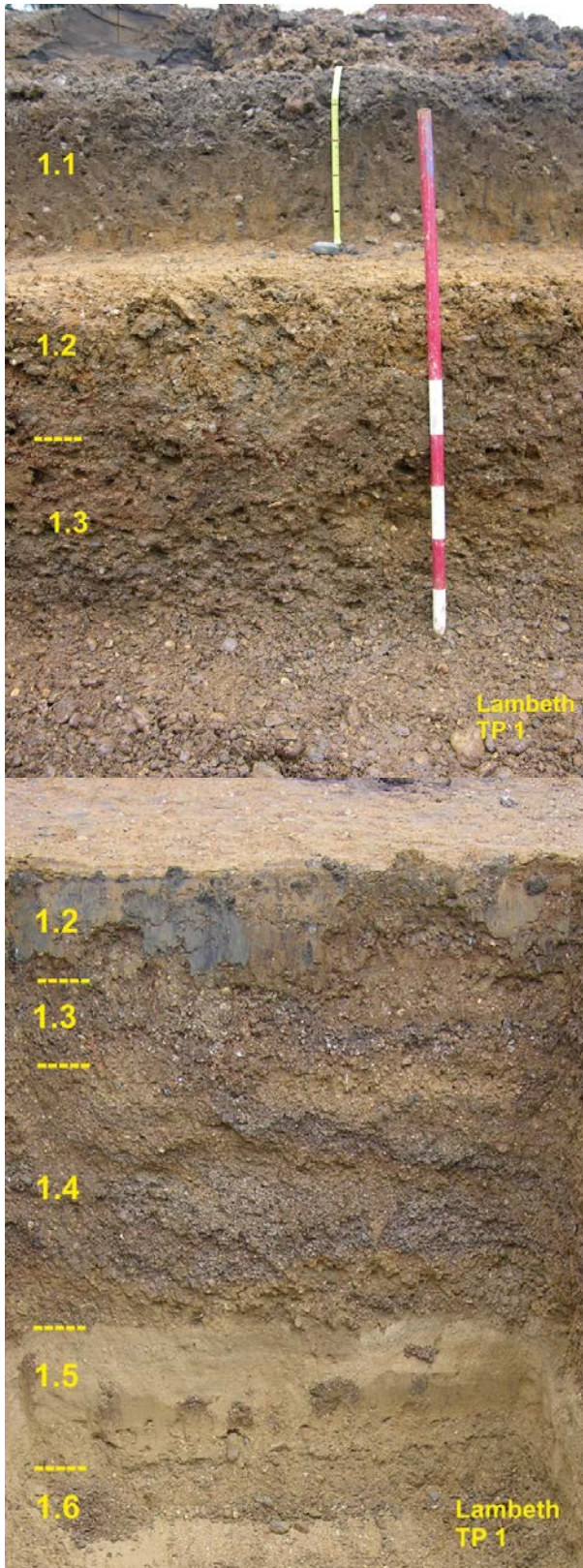


Figure 9a & 9b: Trial Pit TP 1, photograph

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit	Stratigraphy
0.0 – 0.5	4.3 – 3.8	0.5	Soil and sub-soil	2.1	
0.5 – 0.7	3.8 – 3.6	0.2	Fine – medium sand, slightly silty/clayey	2.2	LS
0.7 – 1.2	3.6 – 3.1	0.5	Medium sand, brown	2.3	?KPGs
1.2 – 4.8	3.1 – 0.4	2.7	Medium sand, horizontally bedded	2.4	KPGs

Table 7: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit TP 2, KPGg/s – Kempton Park Gravel, gravelly/sandy; LS – Langley Silt

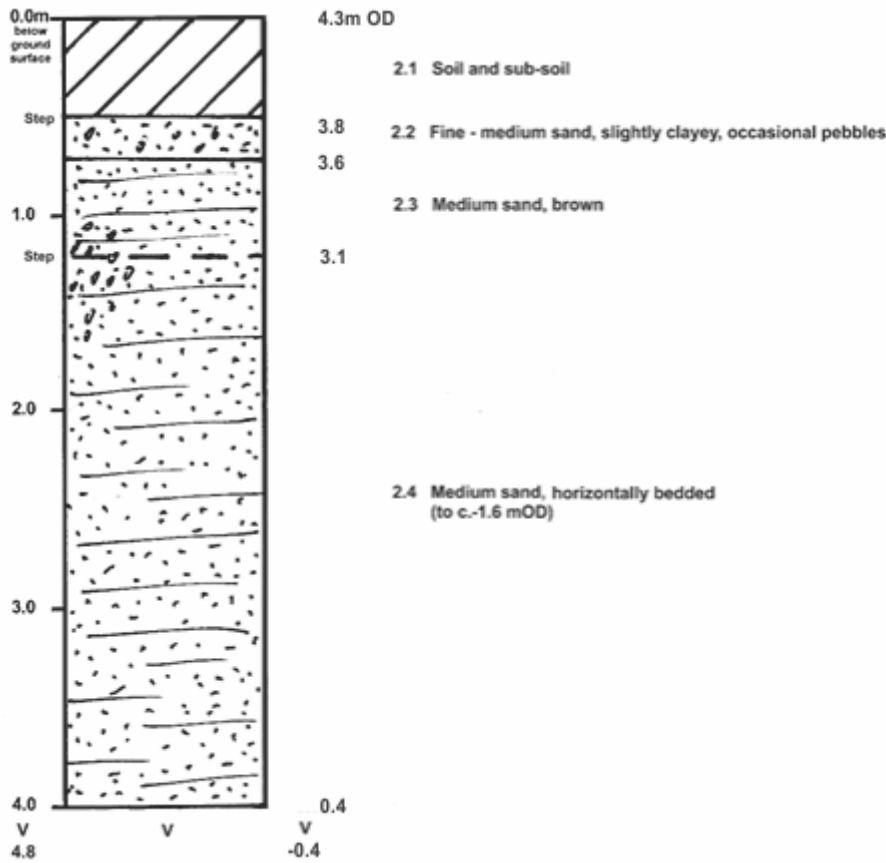


Figure 10: Trial Pit TP 2, graphic log

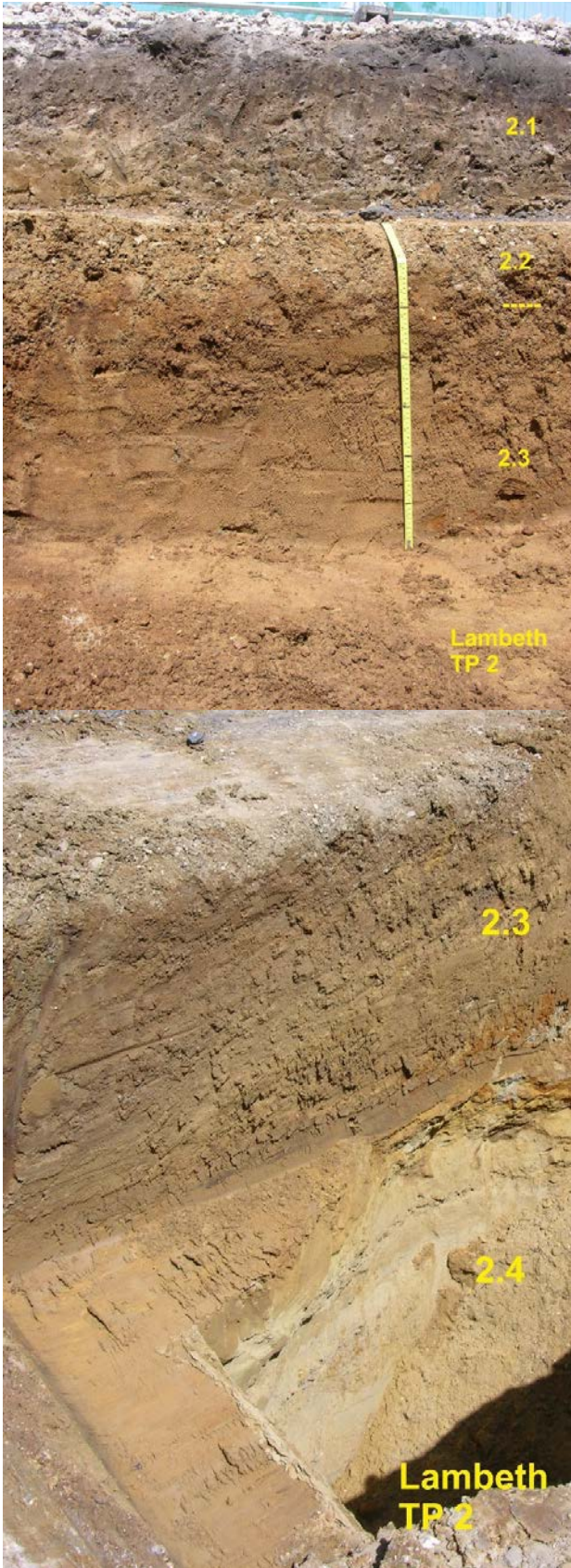


Figure 11a & 11b: Trial Pit TP 2, photograph

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit	Stratigraphy
0.0 – 0.3	4.3 – 4.0	0.3	Soil and sub-soil	3.1	
0.3 – 0.7	4.0 – 3.7	0.5	Sand, mottled, occasional pebbles	3.2	?LS/subsoil?
0.7 – 0.9	3.7 – 3.5	0.2	Pebbly clayey sand	3.3	KPGs
0.9 – 1.5	3.5 – 2.9	0.6	Medium - fine sand, Strong brown (7.5YR5/8) Irregular gravel lens within 3.4	3.4	KPGs
1.4 – 1.7	2.9 – 2.6	0.3	Medium – fine sand, pale olive (5Y6/2) and strong brown (7.5YR5/8) Step at c.2.8 mOD	3.5	KPGs
1.7 – 3.0	2.6 – 1.3	1.3	Coarse sand with flint granules, brownish-yellow (10YR6/6) with pebble stringers and occasional pebbles up to 5 cm. Laminated silt/clay at c.2.7 – 2.5 mOD	3.6	KPGs

Table 8: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit TP 3
KPGg/s – Kempton Park Gravel, gravelly/sandy; LS – Langley Silt

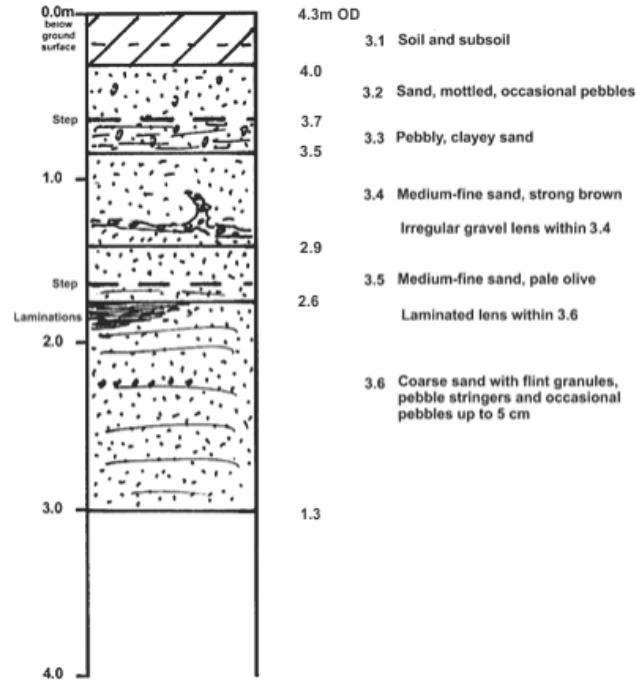


Figure 12: Trial Pit TP 3, graphic log

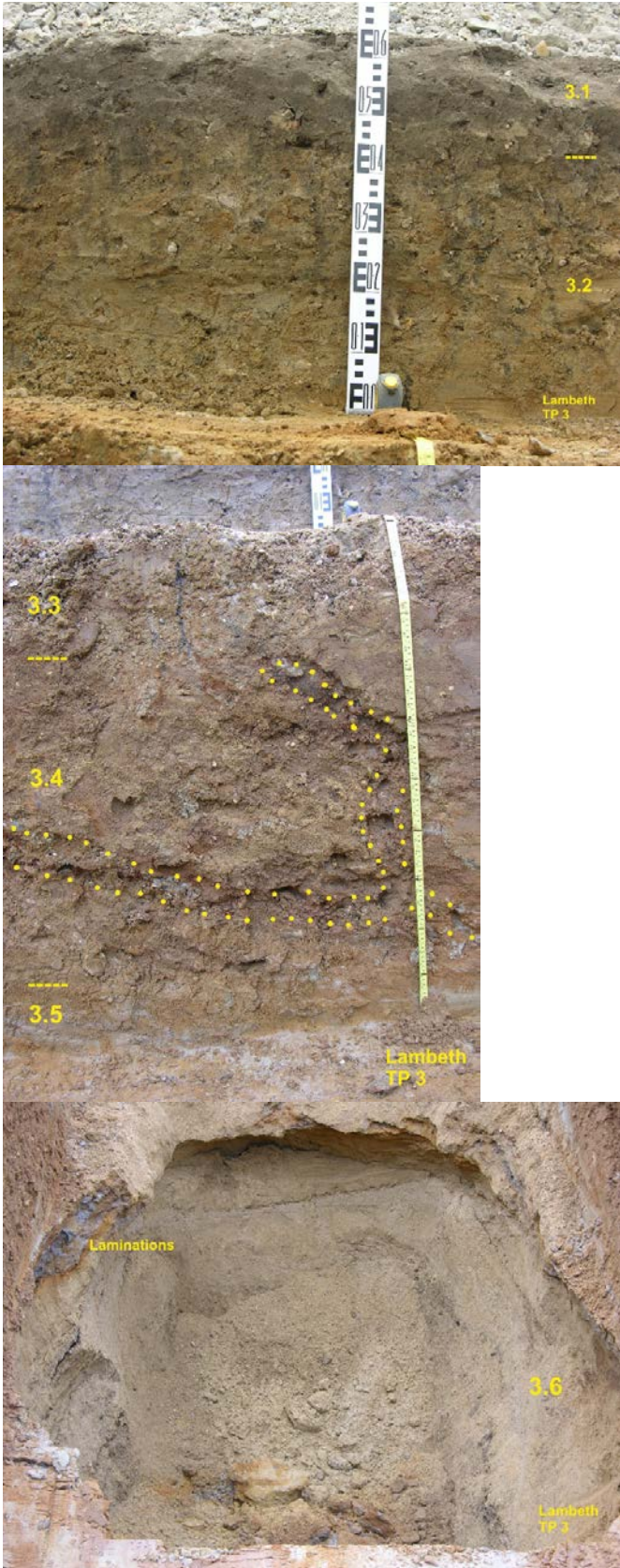


Figure 13a, 13b, 13c: Trial Pit TP 3 photograph

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit	Stratigraphy
0.0 – 0.3	4.3 – 4.0	0.3	Soil	4a.1	
0.3 – 0.4	4.0 – 3.9	0.1	Silt, yellowish brown (10YR5/4)	4a.2	LS?
0.4 – 0.7	3.9 – 3.5	0.3	Silty clay, few stones (zc) and sandy clay with pebbles (sc), minor orange mottling, worm and root channels, deformed bedding	4a.3	LS
0.7 – 1.1	3.5 – 3.1	0.4	Silty clay, brownish yellow (10YR6/6), stoneless, mottled strong brown (7.5YR5/8)	4a.4	LS
1.1 – 1.5	3.1 – 2.7	0.4	Stoney clayey sand, yellowish red (5YR5/8), mottled red (2.5YR4/6), strong orange colour at base Step at c. 3.0 mOD	4a.5	KPGs
1.5 – 1.8	2.7 – 0.5	2.2	Coarse sand with granules, brownish yellow (10YR6/6), horizontally bedded	4a.6	KPGs
3.8 – 4.0	0.5 – 0.3	0.2	Gravel, horizontally bedded	4a.7	KPGg

*Table 9: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit TP 4a
KPGg/s – Kempton Park Gravel, gravelly/sandy; LS – Langley Silt*

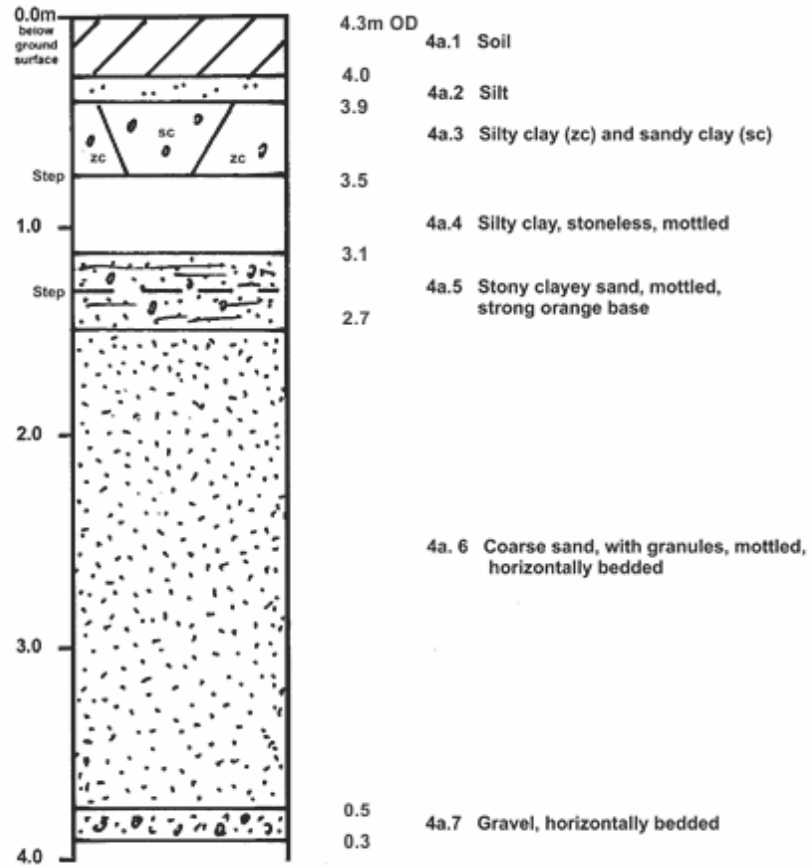


Figure 14: Trial Pit TP 4a, graphic log



Figure 15a, 15b, 15c: Trial Pit TP 4a, photograph

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit	Stratigraphy
0.0 – 0.5	4.3 – 3.8	0.5	Spoil	4b.1	
0.5 – 0.7	3.8 – 3.6	0.2	Clayey fine – medium sand, occasional flints, brown (10YR5/3) Step at 3.6 mOD	4b.2	LS
0.7 – 1.4	3.6 – 2.9	0.7	Sandy clay, yellowish brown (10YR5/4), heavily mottled red (2.5YR4/8)	4b.3	LS
1.4 – 1.6	2.9 – 2.8	0.2	Medium sand, brown (10YR5/3), extensively mottled strong brown (7.5YR5/8), with gravel. Bedding deformed to sub-vertical patterning, probably due to ground-ice thawing	4b.4	KPGs
1.6 – 1.7	2.8 – 0.3	2.5	Medium sand, occasional gravel	4b.5	KPGs

*Table 10: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit TP 4b
KPGg/s – Kempton Park Gravel, gravelly/sandy; LS – Langley Silt*

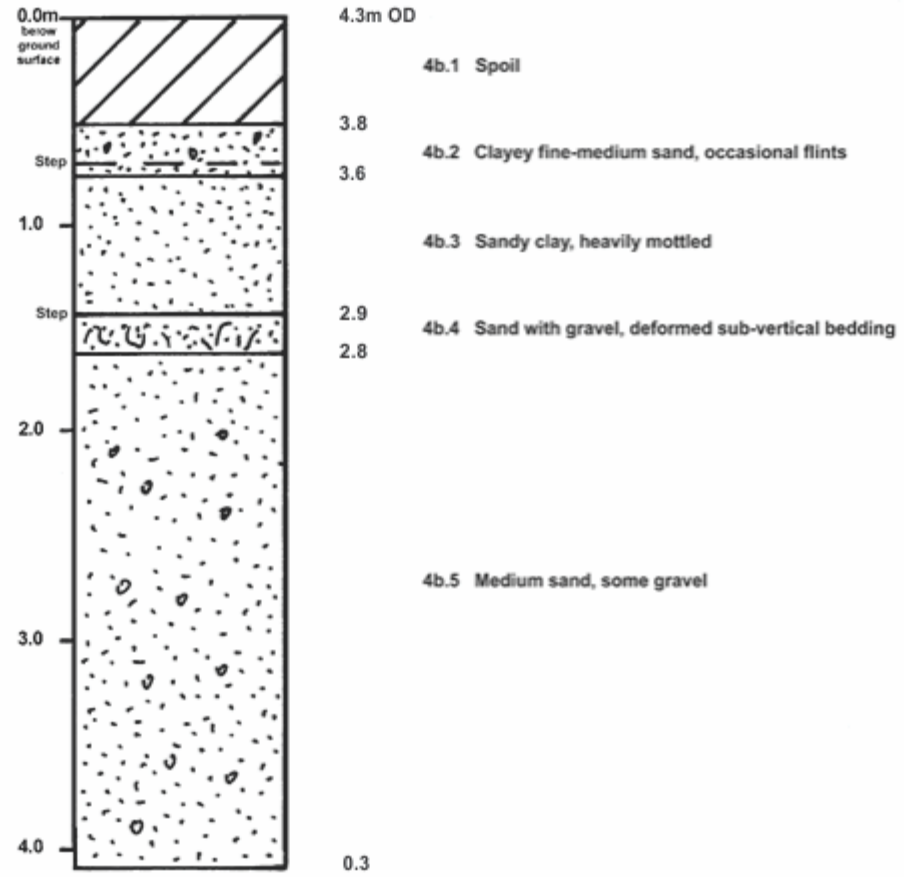


Figure 16: Trial Pit TP 4b, graphic log

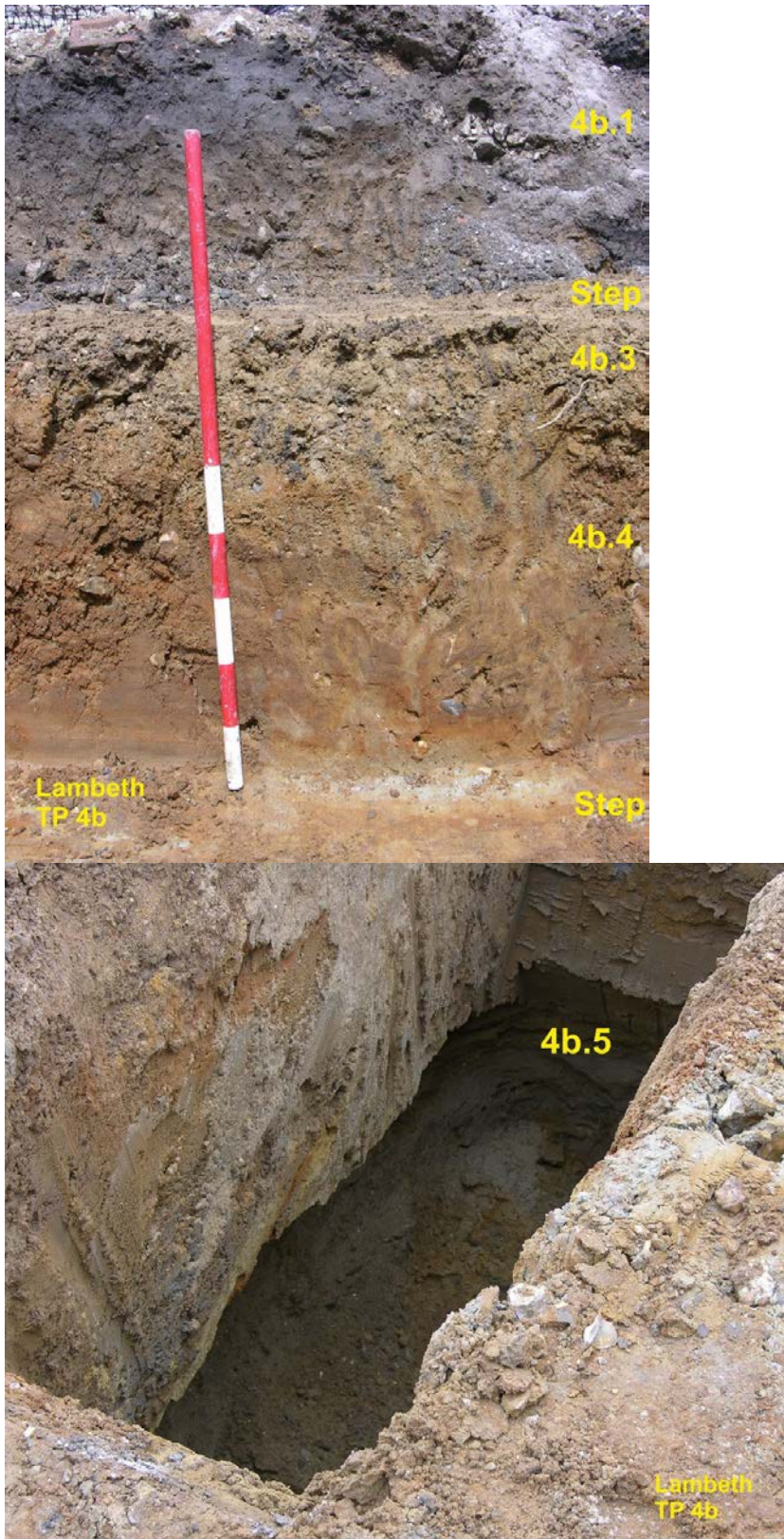


Figure 17a, 17b: Trial Pit TP 4b, photograph

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Thickness (m)	Description	Unit	Stratigraphy
0.0 – 1.1	4.3 – 3.7	1.1	Spoil a. crushed concrete b. clay c. modern soil/subsoil	6.1	
1.1 - 1.3	3.7 – 3.5	0.2	Clayey silty sand, dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4), becoming more clayey and lighter colour, strong brown (7.5YR5/6), with depth,	6.2	LS
4.3	3.5 to 0.3	3.0	Horizontal interbedded sand and sandy gravel	6.3	KPGg

Table 11: Lithostratigraphic description of trial-pit 6
KPGg/s – Kempton Park Gravel, gravelly/sandy; LS – Langley Silt

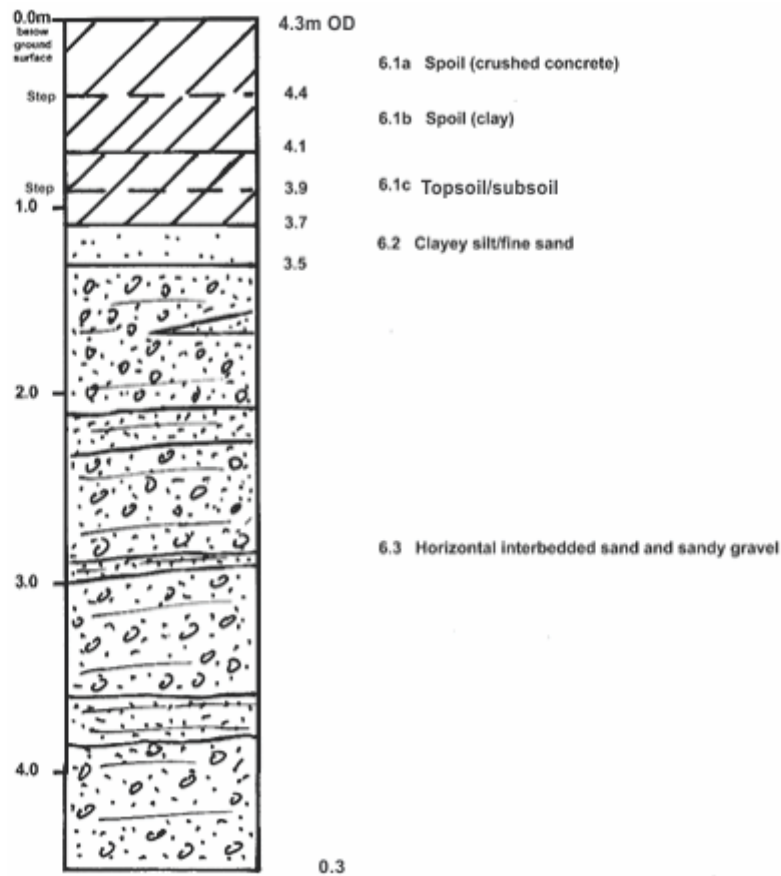


Figure 18: Trial Pit TP 6, graphic log

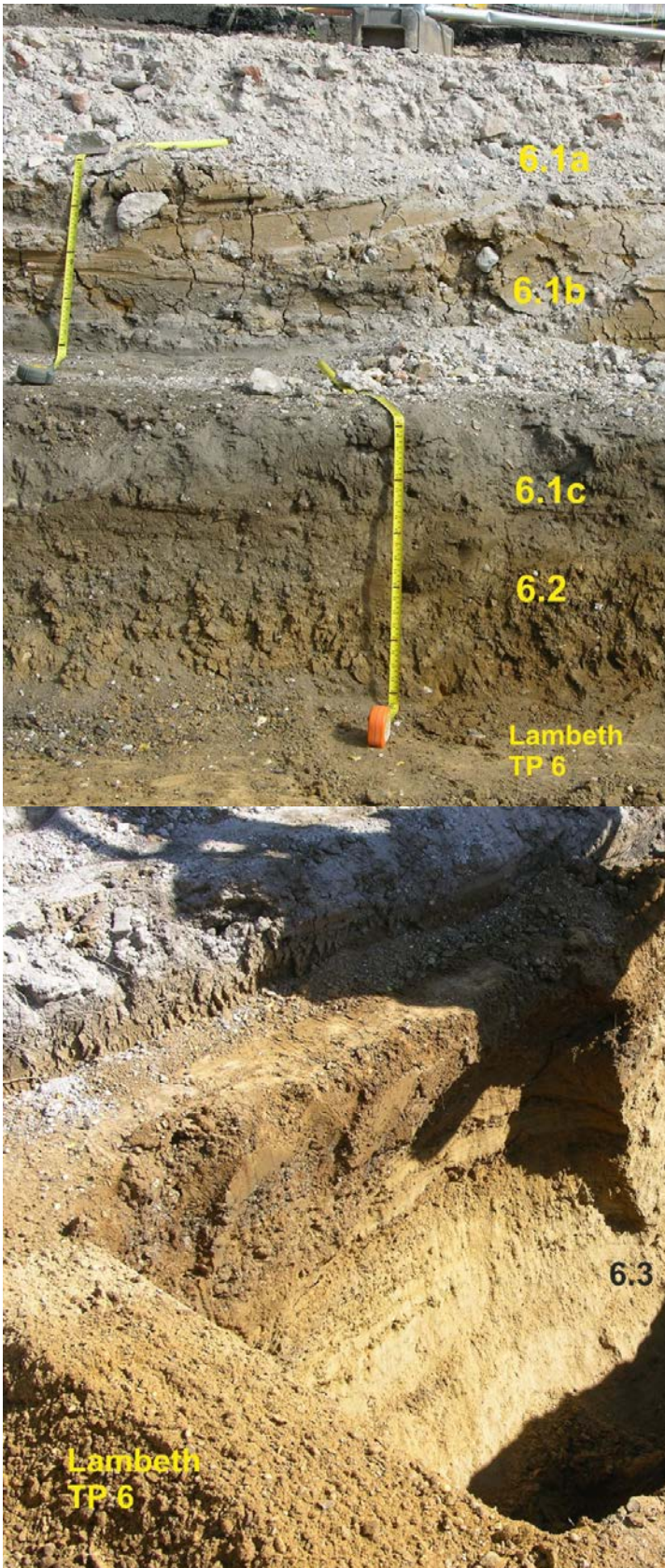


Figure 19a, 19b: Trial Pit TP 6, photograph

6.4 Conclusions and recommendations

6.4.1 *Potential for artefacts and palaeoenvironmental deposits*

6.4.2 Three hundred litres of gravel from TP 1 and a similar volume from TP 2 were sieved through a 10mm mesh and yielded no flint that could be accepted as humanly struck. There is also a poor record of such finds in the Kempton Park Gravel in general (Morigi *et al*, 2011; Pratt 2016). There is a better record from parts of the Langley Silt, but this deposit is polygenetic so the outcrop at Lambeth is not necessarily from a productive part of the Silt. No struck flints were recovered at the site.

6.4.3 No organic beds or fossil material was observed or recovered from the trial pits.

6.4.4 *Recommendation*

6.4.5 While there is a potential for artefact recovery from the site, but with no recovery from 600 litres of Kempton Park Gravel and no finds within the Langley Silt, the potential is considered to be very low and further investigation for artefacts would not be justified. No further work is recommended.

6.4.6 No bioenvironmental sediments or material was found, so again further investigation is not recommended.

7 Finds and environmental evidence

7.1 *Finds*

7.1.1 Apart from a small quantity of late post-medieval and modern ceramics, no significant artefactual material was recovered during the evaluation. The finds were recorded but not kept.

7.2 *Bulk environmental samples*

Introduction

7.2.1 Two bulk environmental samples (BS/GBA samples *sensu* Dobney *et al* 1992) were taken from separate fills of feature [415], a small sub-circular cut thought to represent a post-hole or a small pit, with a diameter of *c* 0.28m and a depth of 0.25m, and having a U-shaped profile and slightly concave base. The lower fill of the feature (414) represented a thin band of charcoal along the base and edges and there was some evidence of *in situ* burning of the surrounding natural. Apart from the charcoal, no other cultural material that might have provided dating evidence was observed in either fill. The sampled deposits were 'dry' which limits the potential for preservation of some categories of biological remains.

Methods

7.2.2 Individual sample volumes were 5–9 litres. Each sample was wet-sieved with flotation after being soaked overnight in water containing washing soda (sodium carbonate), following the methods of Kenward *et al* (1980). Flots were collected on 0.3mm mesh, and heavy residues on nested 2mm and 1mm sieves. All fractions were air-dried.

7.2.3 The dried residue fractions >2mm were sorted in their entirety for animal and plant remains and cultural material. The fine residue fractions (>1mm) were not systematically examined but have been retained. The dried flots were briefly scanned under a low power stereoscopic microscope (x10) to ascertain their contents. The abundance of remains was recorded semi-quantitatively on a four-point scale: occasional +, moderate (approximately 4-10 items) ++, frequent +++, and abundant ++++ (see Table 12).

Results

7.2.4 Material recovered from the samples is described below. Details of each sample are shown in Table 12.

- Context (414), sample <2> Lower fill of [415]
No cultural or biological material was recovered in the heavy residue (>2mm) from the 5-litre sample. The flot contained small quantities of charcoal and moderate numbers of charred hazelnut shell fragments. Traces of coal and modern roots were also noted.
- Context (413), sample <1> Fill of [415] overlying (414)
The only cultural material recovered from the heavy residue (>2mm) was a single piece of heat-affected flint weighing 2g. The flot contained charcoal fragments some of which were small roundwood. Unidentifiable, clinkered 'tarry' material could conceivably have resulted from the burning of other types of plant material but this could not be determined. Modern roots were fairly common and there was some evidence of recent contamination from traces of coal, silvery-coloured industrial residues and mortar.

Table 12

Remains recovered from the bulk samples

Context	Sample	Deposit	Litres washed	>2mm Residue (kg)	Contents >2mm residue	Flot (ml)	Contents flot
413	<1>	Fill of [415]	9	1.1	Ferrous mineral concretions ++++; flint fragments +++; heat-affected flint (1 piece) 2g	150	Charcoal fragments +++; charred twigs ++; traces coal, silvery (recent) slag and mortar; sand +++; ferrous mineral concretions +++; modern fine roots ++
414	<2>	Lower fill of [415]	5	0.6	Ferrous mineral concretions ++++; flint fragments +++	100	Charcoal fragments +++; charred hazelnut shell fragments ++; trace coal; sand ++; ferrous mineral concretions ++; modern fine roots +

Conclusions

7.2.5 Charred plant remains and charcoal were the only potentially ancient biological remains recovered from the two samples from feature [415]. The presence of moderate amounts of charred hazelnut shell in the lower fill (414) may have a bearing on dating of the feature. Generally, samples with an abundance of hazelnut shell and scarcity or absence of cereals or other plants remains often prove to be of Neolithic or early Bronze Age date, even though hazelnuts are by no means confined to those periods. Foraged wild foods would have been of particular importance in the diet at a stage when cultivation of cereals and other crops was only on a limited scale (e.g. Moffat *et al* 1989). The hazelnut shell

recovered from the sample is well-preserved and suitable for radiocarbon dating if necessary.

Acknowledgment

7.2.6 Sample processing was carried out by Alex Vokes.

8 Summary of results and interpretation

8.1 Geology

8.1.1 Unfortunately, the loose and predominantly sandy nature of the geological deposits hindered detailed recording. However, the levels have been interpreted as braided river sediments accumulating under a fluvial regime with variable flow, and part of the Kempton Park Gravel sequence. The deformation of the bedding noted in TP 1 and TP 4b are likely to have occurred during periods of saturation of the sediments, possibly due to thawing of ground ice as cold (periglacial) conditions were coming to an end.

8.1.2 It was not possible to definitively determine the presence of any individual channels, although the greater predominance of sandy deposits to the south-east does suggest a slower flowing channel here. Deposits potentially of the Langley Silt Member were recorded in most of the test-pits, apart from TP 1, although identification of this unit can be difficult due to its polygenetic character. No artefacts or ecofactual material were recovered from any of these levels, nor any discrete levels or deposits of bioenvironmental potential observed.

8.2 *Later deposits*

8.2.1 The later sequence of deposits was virtually identical in every trench (see Figs 20-24). The undisturbed natural subsoil was sealed (via a diffuse interface) by what appeared to be a derived subsoil, a yellow grey-brown sandy silt/clay (101, 201, 301, 401 and 601) of varying thickness (0.3m on average) which was sterile apart from the occasional speck of charcoal and small fragments of worn brick or tile. Although it was possibly originally produced by colluviation, it is suggested here that this was primarily a product of agricultural activity and bioturbation of the Langley Silt, from which it appears to have been at least partially derived (the two deposits were difficult to differentiate in places, particularly in Trench 3). Erosion, during a long period of agricultural activity (or from colluviation) may explain the lack of Langley Silt towards the western, higher part of the site (see Figs 22 – 24).

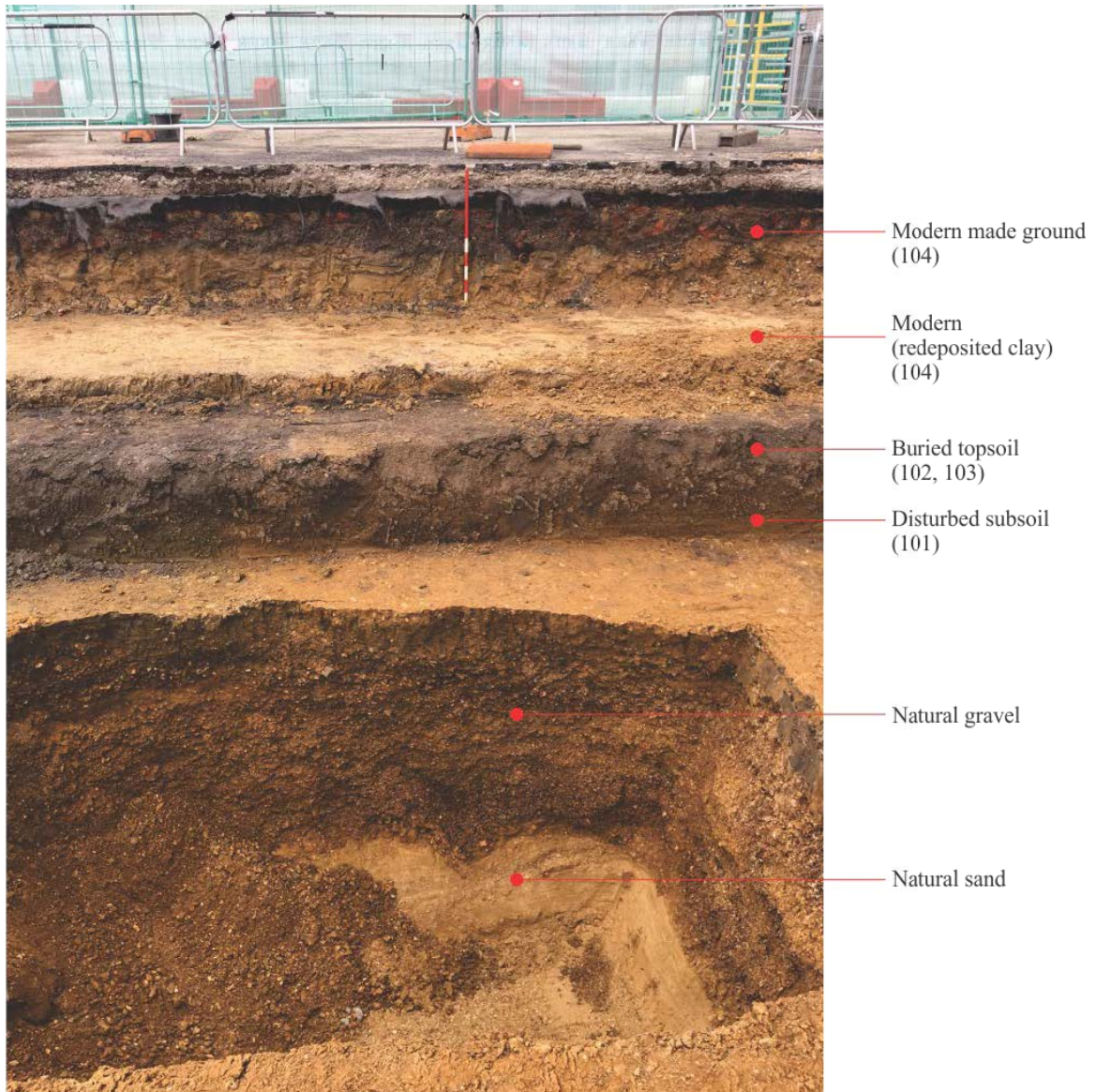


Fig. 20: The full sequence of deposits as exposed in Trench 1. Scale 1m

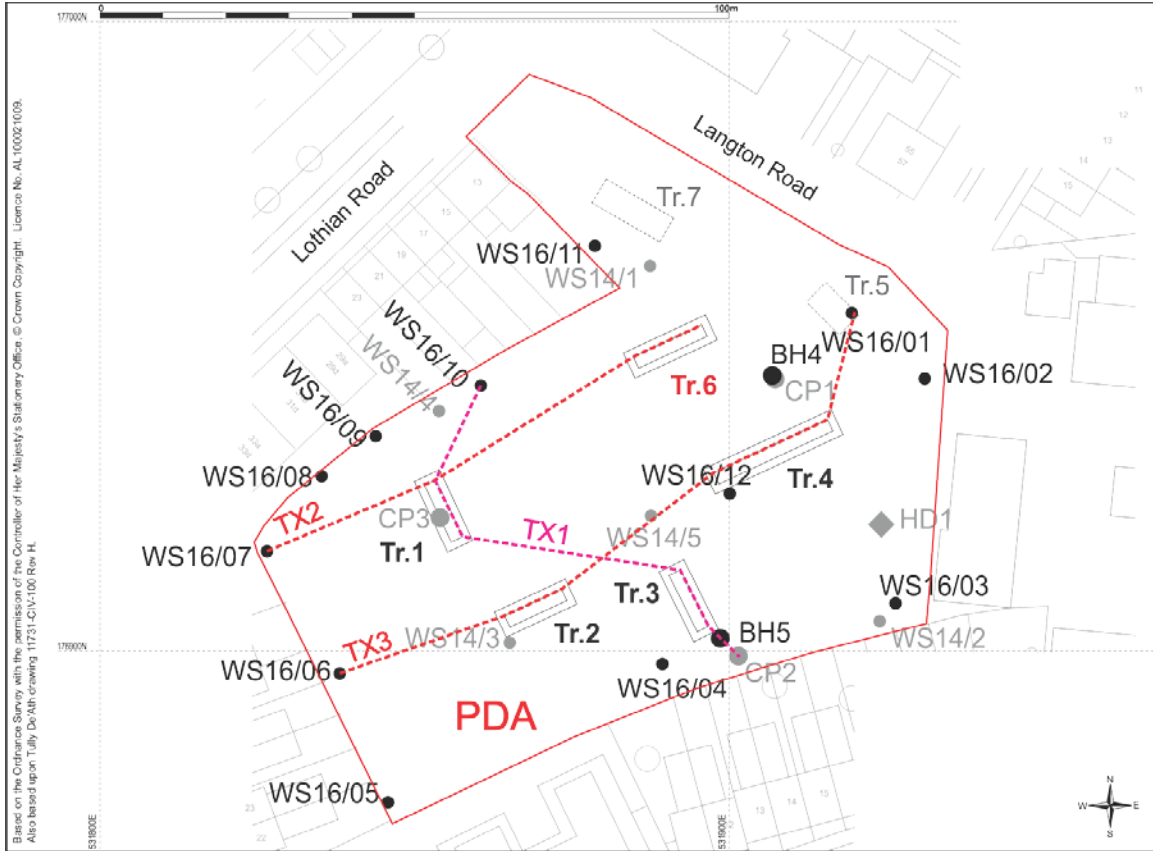


Fig 21: Location of deposit profile cross-sections based on evaluation results and boreholes (based on Pratt 2016)

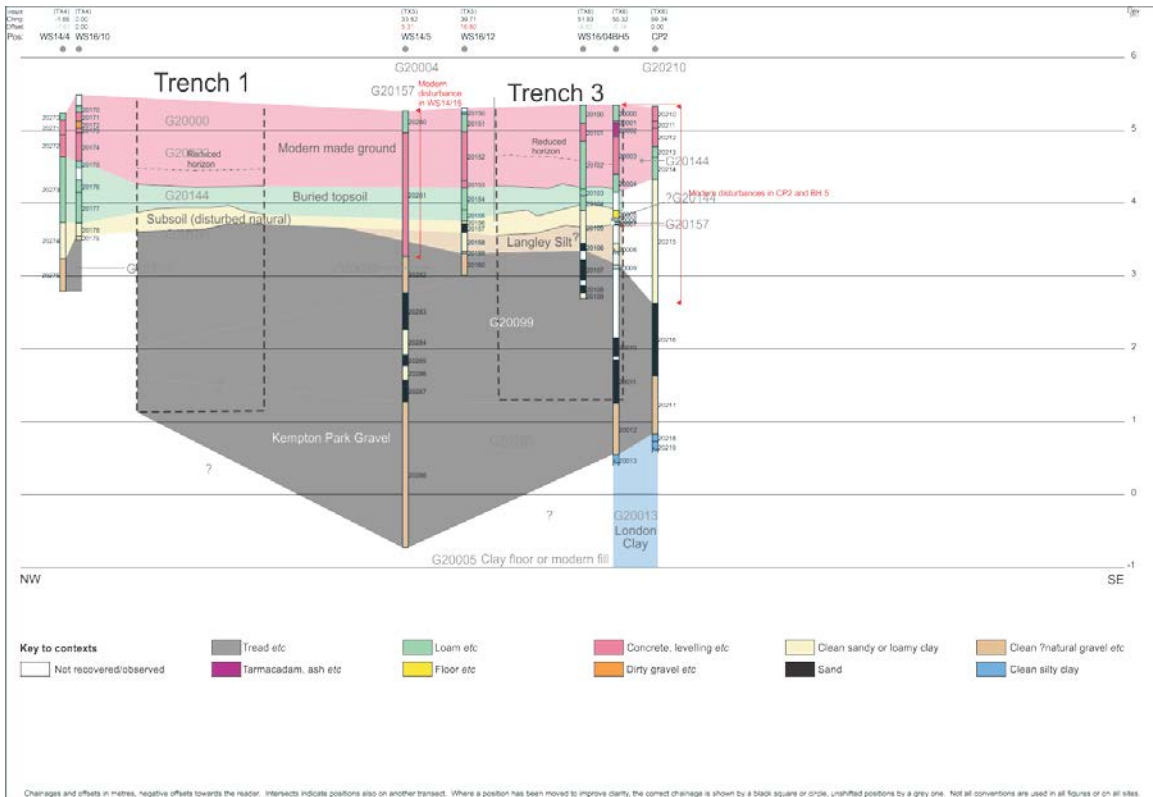


Fig 22: Evaluation transect TX1 (vertical scale 1:40, ave. horizontal spacing 1:300) based on borehole transect TX2 (Pratt 2016).

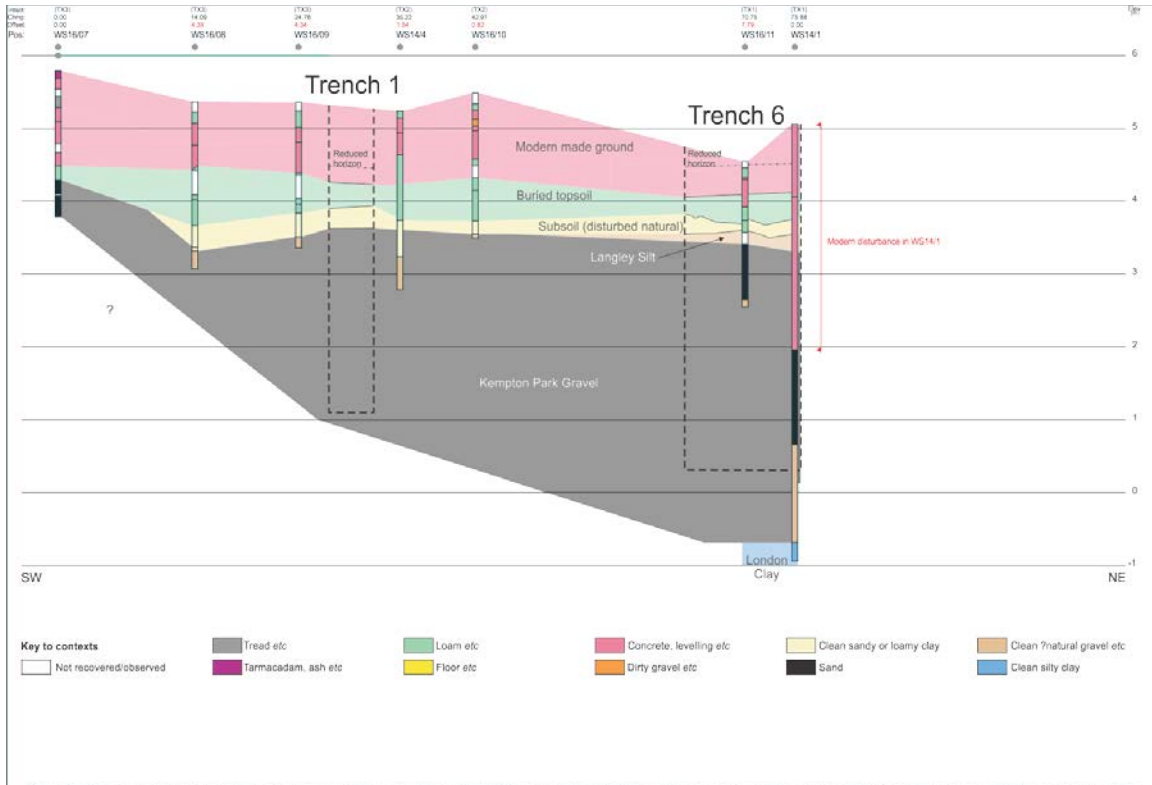


Fig 23: Evaluation transect TX 2 (vertical scale 1:40, ave. horizontal spacing 1:300) based on borehole transect TX4 (Pratt 2016).

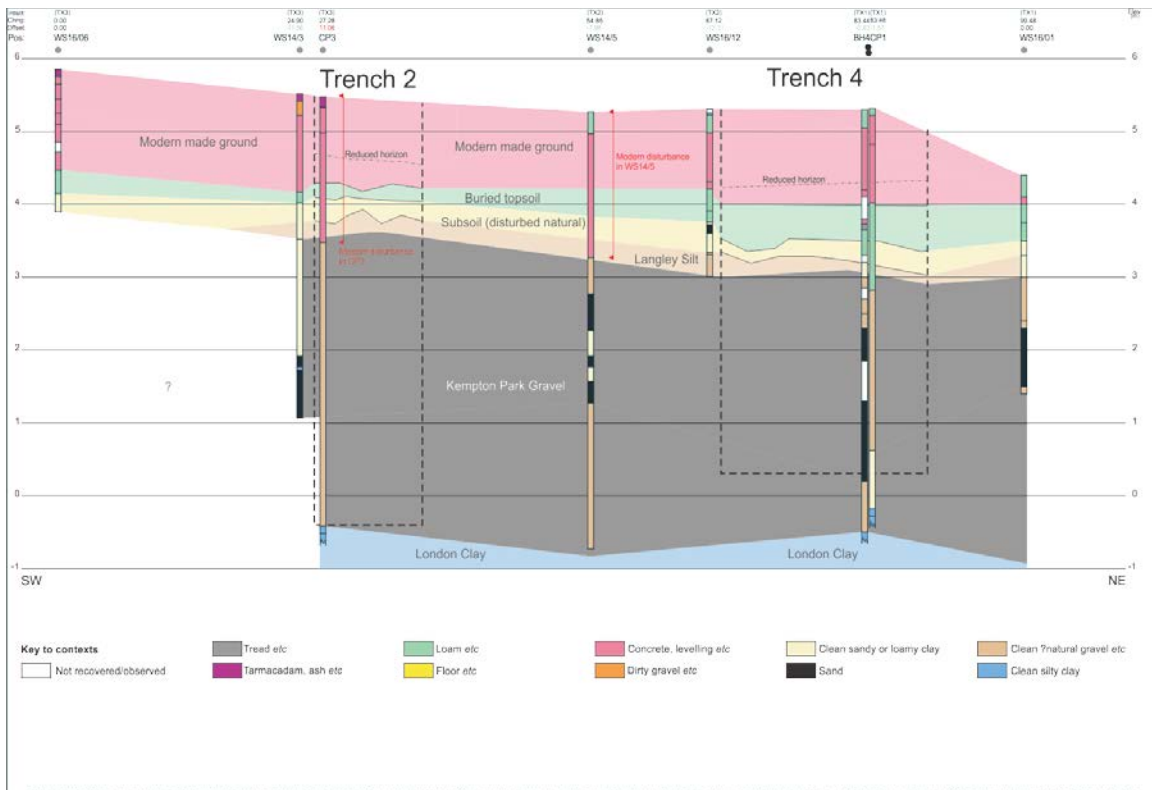


Fig 24: Evaluation transect TX 3 (vertical scale 1:40, ave. horizontal spacing 1:300) based on borehole transect TX5 (Pratt 2016).

- 8.2.2 The derived subsoil was sealed by a deposit that can be confidently interpreted as an old topsoil due to its composition, representing an agricultural phase of use in the area. The deposit (102, 202, 301, 402 and 602) comprised a mid to dark yellowy grey/brown sandy silt with small brick or tile fragments, charcoal flecking, china, clay pipe and glass. It was about 0.2-0.4m thick generally, although became thicker to the east in the area of Trench 4 (c. 0.6m; see Figs 22 - 24).
- 8.2.3 This variation in thickness and other factors, may suggest that at least some of the topsoil may have been redeposited after some element of landscaping. In addition to the variation in thickness, the interface between the topsoil and the subsoil was quite sharp in places. Truncation of the interface beneath the topsoil is not clearly evident in the reconstructed soil profiles, although one (Transect TX2; Fig. 23) does show the subsoil missing from the extreme south-west part of the site (although this is only based on evidence from one borehole position - WS16/07; Pratt 2016). If this is the case, this landscaping was almost certainly due to the military use of the site in the later nineteenth and early twentieth century (see above and Sparey-Green 2016, 8-9) and may explain some of the marks shown on a wartime air-photo, which could represent areas of denuded subsoil.
- 8.2.4 The topsoil was probably truncated when the school was constructed in the 1970s (Sparey-Green 2016, 10). Its upper surface was relatively horizontal, apart from a step down to the east and was directly sealed by deposits relating to the construction of the original school. Although these varied considerably, the earliest level, encountered consistently across the site, was a thick deposit of redeposited natural yellow clay (104, 204, 312, 403 and 603) which is likely to have been imported from elsewhere.
- 8.3 *Features*
- 8.3.1 Very few features of any potential antiquity were discerned on the site. Most of these probably cut the derived subsoil level and were sealed by the buried topsoil. None could be definitively dated however.
- 8.3.2 Two near parallel shallow ditches about 22m apart were located in trenches 3 and 6 ([314] and [610/612] respectively); the features were probably heavily truncated, and although recorded as being sealed by the disturbed subsoil level described above, may have actually cut it (their upper edges were rather diffuse). Of the two [610/612] was the more substantial, up to 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep. Neither yielded any dating evidence and both contained fills that appeared to be comprised of material directly derived from the natural subsoil 9 or even partially the disturbed subsoil horizon). If [314] does not represent a natural feature, then they probably represent field boundaries but they could be of any date. Boundaries that they may have represented are not shown on the early maps, so they probably predate the early nineteenth century. However, it may be significant that the NNW/SSE alignment of the features is close to that of the surrounding fields shown on the Cruchley Map of 1828 (see Sparey-Geen 2016, Fig. 6); these alignments survived in part to be represented on the first edition Ordnance Survey. Ditch [314] actually lines up quite closely with one of these boundaries (see Fig. 25), which may mean that both features represent a truncated remnant of a medieval or early post-medieval field arrangement in the area.
- 8.3.3 Apart from the ditches, there were two small pits or post-holes in trench 4 ([415] and [425]). The latter was extremely shallow and may have just been a natural depression,

but [415] was a definite cut feature showing some slight indication of burning on its sides. Neither of these features produced any artefactual evidence, but [415] contained a band of charcoal at its base. A sample from this, although potentially contaminated by modern material (see section 6 above) has produced a small assemblage of charred hazelnut shells which are commonly found in earlier prehistoric features.

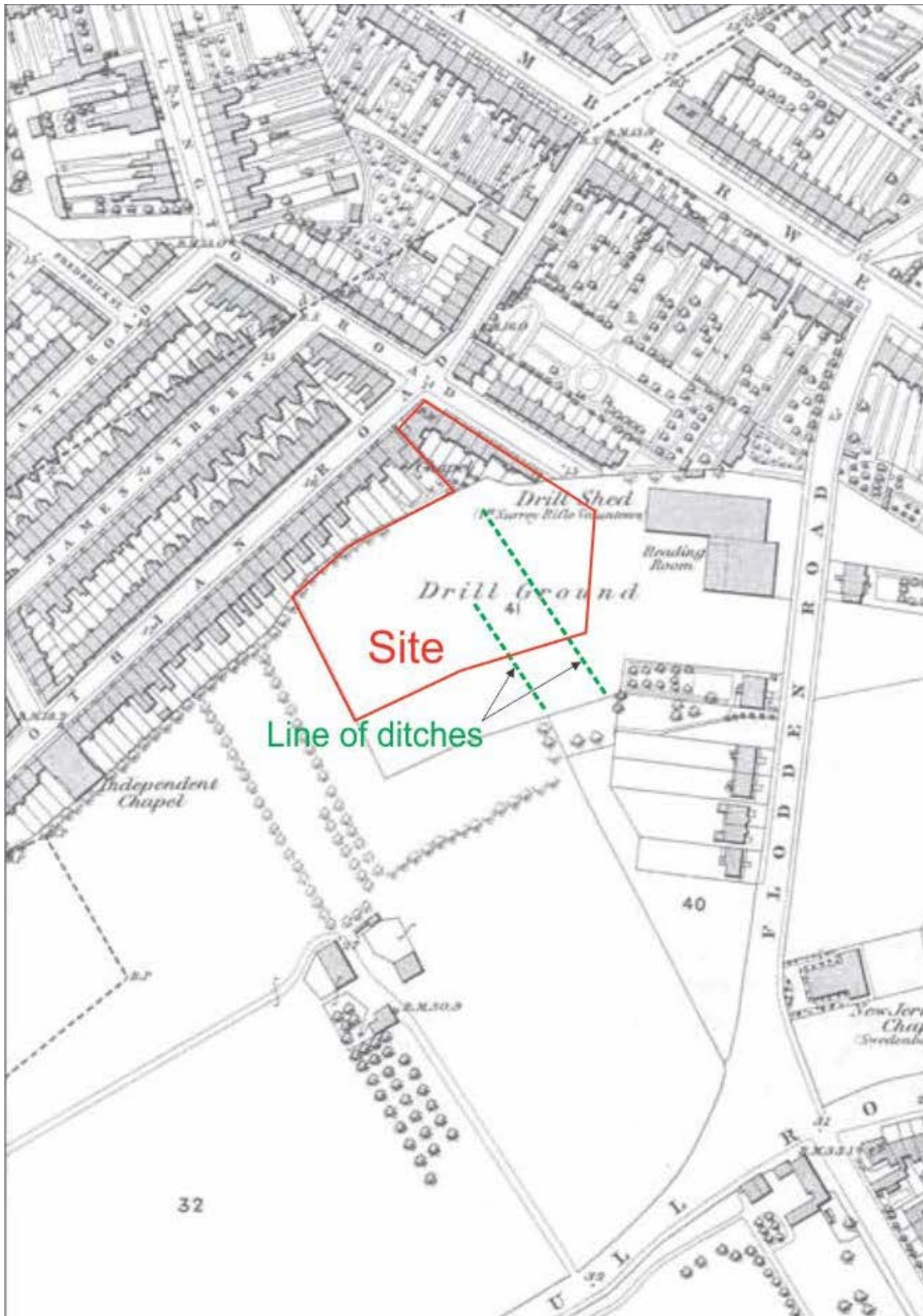


Fig 25: Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map London Sheet LXVI, 1871, with outline of PDA and showing line of field ditches (approx. 1:2000)

9 Conclusions and impact assessment

- 9.1 In terms of the research aims, the evaluation has not been that successful in aiding the modelling or characterisation of the late Pleistocene/early Holocene deposits due to the very unstable nature of the ground which made recording of the geoarchaeological trial pits difficult, as the sides continually collapsed. However, the work has suggested that these particular deposits in this location do not contain any material of geoarchaeological or palaeoenvironmental potential. There was no evidence for artefactual or environmental remains within the geological deposits and nothing datable was recovered.
- 9.2 The evaluation has also suggested that what was previously interpreted as Langley Silt (Pratt 2016), was in part a reworked deposit derived from this unit, although levels of Langley Silt may well appear over the eastern part of the site. They may have been removed to the west (towards the higher ground) by erosion or over-cultivation in antiquity.
- 9.3 There was very little evidence for any ancient activity, and no residual artefactual material predating the post-medieval period was observed or recovered. The small pit or post-hole [415] is quite likely to be of early prehistoric date (which could possibly be confirmed by C-14 dating), but it was an isolated feature. This suggests that there may have been little activity apart from agriculture in the immediate vicinity before more recent times, a conclusion which is consistent with the result of the desk-based assessment (Sparey-Green 2016 and above).
- 9.4 The two ditches found on the site could be of any date but their alignment suggests that they are most likely to be a part of a medieval or early post-medieval field system (see Fig. 25).
- 9.5 There was no direct evidence for any military activity on the site, although some indication of modern landscaping may have related to military activities in the later nineteenth/earlier twentieth century.
- 9.6 The evaluation suggests therefore that the proposed development will have a minimal impact on the archaeological resource.

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Appendix 1

GLSMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

2) LOCATION

Borough: Lambeth

Site address: St Gabriel's College, Langton Road, Lambeth, SW9 6UL

Site Name: St Gabriel's College, Lambeth CAT Site Code: SGCL-EV-17 GLAAS Project Code: LGT 17

Nat. Grid Refs (8 figures): centre of site: NGR 5319 1769

limits of site: a) 112m SW to NE and b) c 65 wide NW to SE
Total area (approximately 7,250m²)

3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Address: 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU

Site director/supervisor: Adrian Gollop

Project Manager: Jon Rady

Funded by: Kier (Southern) on behalf of the Education Funding Authority

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 3 /7/17

Date finished: 14/7/17

Fieldwork previously notified? YES Fieldwork will continue? NO

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Pleistocene, Holocene

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES

The evaluation trenches measured between approximately 14 and 22m in length and were between 5.20 and 6.80m wide. After stepping of the trenches to expose the natural horizon (at depths exceeding 600mm), the base lengths varied between 10.40 and 22m in length and between 3.20 and 4.80m wide. Six deeper trial pits were excavated in the bases to provide a geoarchaeological assessment.

Pleistocene

The site lies on an extensive flat area, at approximately 5.0m OD, about 2km south of the Thames. To the south the land rises slightly over a distance of 2km from c 8m to 15m OD at Brixton and then rises steeply to c 50m OD at Streatham Hill and Tulse Hill.

The natural levels have been interpreted as braided river sediments accumulating under a fluvial regime with variable flow, and part of the Kempton Park Gravel sequence. These were intermittently sealed by Langley Silt. No artefacts or ecofactual material were recovered from any of these levels, nor any discrete levels or deposits of bioenvironmental potential observed.

Holocene

The undisturbed natural subsoil was sealed (via a diffuse interface) by what appeared to be a derived subsoil, a yellow grey-brown sandy silt/clay (101, 201, 301, 401 and 601) of varying thickness (0.3m on average) which was sterile apart from the occasional speck of charcoal and small fragments of worn brick or tile. Although it was possibly originally produced by colluviation, it is suggested here that this was primarily a product of agricultural activity and bioturbation of the Langley Silt, from which it appears to have been at least partially derived (the two deposits were difficult to differentiate in places).

Very few features of any potential antiquity were discerned on the site. None of the recorded features could be definitively dated. A small pit or post-hole is quite likely to be of early prehistoric date (which could possibly be confirmed by C-14 dating), but it was an isolated feature. The two ditches found on the site could be of any date but their alignment suggests that they are most likely to be a part of a medieval or early post-medieval field system. The features were sealed by an old topsoil and a considerable depth of made ground relating to modern developments.

7) NATURAL

Type: Kempton Park Gravel, Langley Silt Member
Height above Ordnance Datum: c. 5.0m

Geology The results identified the natural geology as : Kempton Park Gravel, c.4.0m OD to c. 0.3m OD, approximately 0.8m to 1.6m below the existing ground surface, sealed in places by possible intermittent deposits of Langley Silt. The geological level was covered with a deposit of subsoil, c. 0.3m thick.

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

Sections: 6 Plans: 6 Photos: 100 digital format
Context sheets: 77

Report: Report No: 2017/201, Archive no: 3685
Name: Land at St Gabriel's College, Langton Road, Lambeth, London SW9 6UL Archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation
59pp inc bib, + 25 figures + 1 Appendix

Bulk finds: None
Soil samples x2 (retained by CAT):

b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and has been deposited in the following location:

Currently: Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU

c) Has a security copy of the archive been made? YES

9) BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SIGNED:

DATE: 28/11/17

NAME (Block capitals): JON RADY

Please return the completed form to:

English Heritage, Greater London Sites and Monuments Record, Room G01, 23 Savile Row, London W1S 2ET. (Direct tel: 020-7973-3731/3779. Direct fax: 020-7973-3218.)
glsmr@english-heritage.org.uk



Plate 1: Trench 1 after hand cleaning, as seen from its southern end, looking north-north-west. Scales 2 and 1m.



Plate 2: Trench 1 after hand cleaning, as seen from its northern end, looking south-south-east. Scales 2 and 1m.



Plate 3: West facing section along the eastern side of trench 1, as seen from the north-west. Scale 1m.



Plate 4: Composite section of the western side of trench 2, showing all modern made grounds and gravels/sands in geological deep sondage, as viewed from the east-south-east. Scale 1m.



Plate 5: Trench 2 after hand cleaning, as viewed from its eastern end, looking west. Scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 6: Trench 2 after hand cleaning, as viewed from its western end, looking east. Scales 2m and 1m



Plate 7: South facing section along the northern side of trench 2, as seen from the south-east. Scale 1m.



Plate 8: Trench 3 after hand cleaning, as seen from its southern end, looking north. Scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 9: Trench 3 after hand cleaning, as seen from its northern end, looking south (with linear feature [314] to the left). Scales 1 and 2m.



Plate 10: West facing section, along the eastern side of trench 3, as seen from the north-west (with linear feature [314] to the left). Scale 1m.



Plate 11: Trench 6 after hand cleaning, as seen from its eastern end, looking west. Scale 2m.



Plate 12: Trench 4 after hand cleaning, as viewed from its western end, looking east. Scale 1m.



Plate 13: South facing section along the northern side of trench 4, as viewed from the south-west. Scale 1m.



Plate 14: Detail of east facing section of charcoal-lined pit/posthole [415] in trench 4. Scale 0.2m.



Plate 15: Trench 6 after hand cleaning, as viewed from its western end looking east. Scale 2 and 1m.



Plate 16: Trench 6 after hand cleaning, as viewed from its eastern end looking west. Scales 2 and 1m.



Plate 17: Linear feature [612], prior to sample excavation, running across the eastern half of trench 6 as viewed from the east-north-east. Scale 1m.