



PROPOSED RESERVOIR AT DOLLIS HILL  
Land Adjacent to 92 Brook Road  
London NW2

London Borough of Brent

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Site Code: BKO 00  
National Grid Reference: TQ 2235 8628

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## SUMMARY (NON-TECHNICAL)

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of the proposed reservoir at Dollis Hill, 92 Brook Road, London, NW2. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by Lang Hall Archaeology on behalf of Thames Water.*

*Following the 'Brief'<sup>1</sup> recommendations 32 evaluation trenches (20m x 2m) were excavated on the site.*

*The results of the field evaluation have produced evidence for Roman activity/occupation in a previously unknown area. The late third century features consisted of two truncated ditches and a curvilinear feature. No evidence of Palaeolithic activity was found on the site.*

*The report concludes that the proposed development will significantly impact on surviving archaeological remains on the site. The construction of the reservoir will remove all archaeological deposits. The presence of previously unknown Roman activity in the Dollis Hill area is of significance, and further archaeological work may be required prior to construction commencing on the site.*

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<sup>1</sup> *Dollis Hill Reservoir, Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*, March 2000, Lang Hall Archaeology. The brief mentions 31 trenches but 32 are illustrated in the instruction drawing.

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*Front cover:* Milne's Map of 1800

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Background

The evaluation took place at vacant land at 92 Brook Road, London, NW2. The Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference for the centre of site is TQ 2235 8628. The site lies between 72m and 76m AOD. The Museum of London site code is BKO00 .

A 'Brief for Archaeological Evaluation' was prepared by Lang Hall Archaeology (March 2000) and that document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

An archaeological field evaluation was subsequently executed by MoLAS and involved the examination of thirty two 2m x 20m trenches.

### 1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in project design for the watching brief (see Section 1.2, MoLAS, 2000).

### 1.3 Planning background

The proposed works require planning permission, for which an application was submitted in August 1999.

The site is not a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

### 1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Lang Hall Archaeology on behalf of Thames Water, and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation Report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

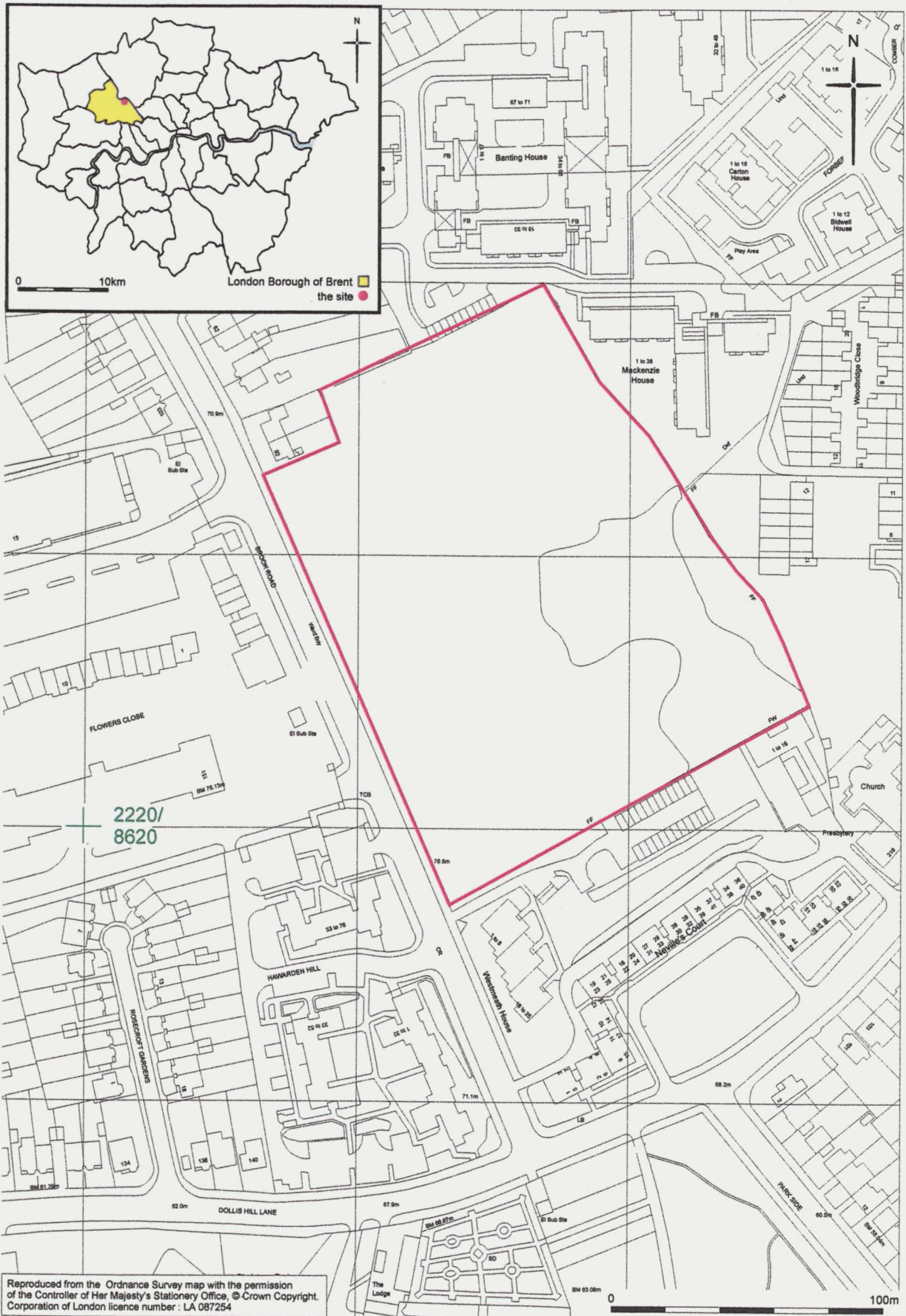


Figure 1. Site location plan

## 1.5 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 1.6):

The following two Research Aims were defined in the methodology/research design for the site<sup>2</sup>:

1. Is there any evidence for Palaeolithic activity on the site?
2. To determine if there is any evidence of prehistoric settlement on the site.

The accepted archaeological brief for archaeological evaluation is to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment (Model Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation, English Heritage, 1992- revised June 1998).

Thus the objective will be to provide information on as many, or any, of the research questions whilst primarily answering the terms of the brief which is to provide information on which decisions can be taken as to the need for any further archaeological action, such as preservation in situ or archaeological rescue excavation, or for no further archaeological action.

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<sup>2</sup> *Specification/Methodology/Research Design for Proposed Archaeological Field Evaluation by the Museum of London Archaeology Service at Vacant Land at 92 Brook Road Neasden NW2, March 2000, E Howe*



## 2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Topography

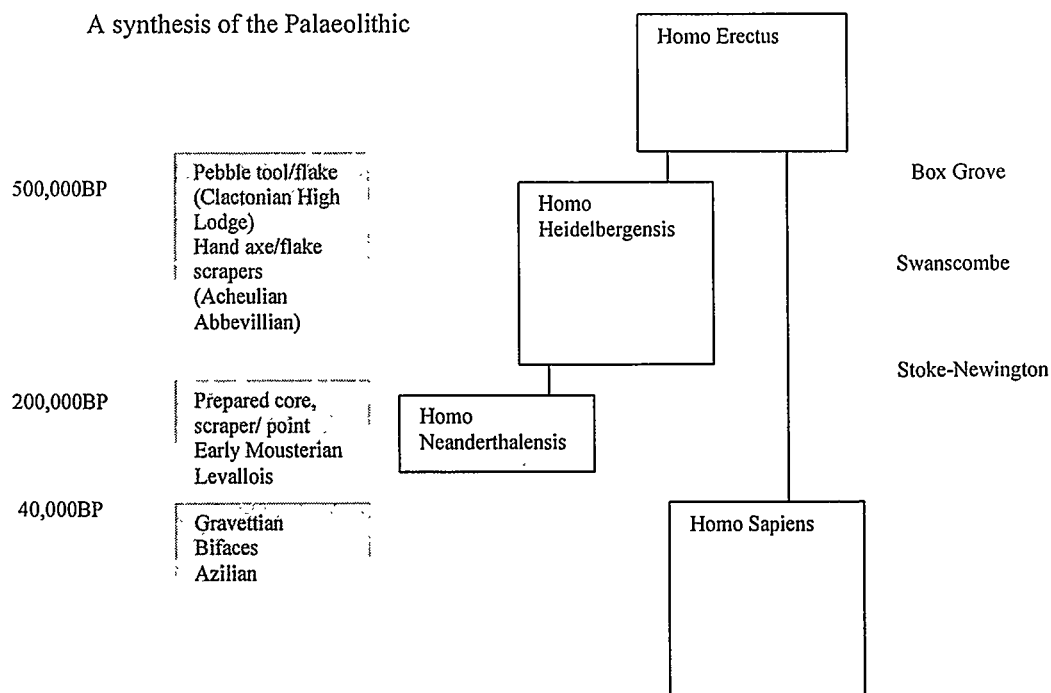
The site lies between 72m and 76m AOD, on the crest of a hill capped by high-level terrace gravels, the Dollis Hill Gravels. These are broadly contemporary with a variety of isolated fragments of the high-level terrace which are of pre- or early Anglian, a cold climatic stage before the Anglian glaciation. They date to approximately 500,000-450,000 BP (before present) and are derived from tributaries of a north flowing predecessor to the Thames. They overlie the weathered surface of London Clay.

Present day Dollis Hill is surrounded on three sides by the River Brent and its tributaries, and to the south, the present course of the Thames.

### 2.2 Prehistoric

Two hand axes and a Levallois flake, as well as some unretouched (waste?) flakes were recovered approximately 200m south of the site. These were found prior to 1968, and their context was not accurately recorded. However, they pose something of a problem for the geology of the area. Tools which used a prepared core, or Levallois, technique postdate the deposition of the Dollis Hill Gravels by approximately 300,000 years. Also, where they were discovered is geologically older still, on the weathered surface of London Clay. Such tools must have survived in a silt pocket above or cut into London Clay, or cut into the Gravels and they subsequently eroded out.

## A synthesis of the Palaeolithic



The Dollis Hill gravels are a minimum of 400,000 years old and the likelihood of recovering artefacts, indicating human activity in the area at this time, are very limited. The date of the gravels is closer to the age of the earliest known British site at Boxgrove than of the Lower Thames Swanscombe, and far older than recent discoveries at Stoke Newington.

Bronze Age cremation urns were recovered approximately 880m to the northwest, near the Brent reservoir. It should be noted that the tops of hills are commonly the site of burial mounds, which thereby command the skyline.

### 2.3 Medieval

Unclassified settlements have been recorded 300m to the north and 1000m to the southwest, whilst a windmill (dated 1295-1365) was located c600m southwest of the site. Again it should be noted that the site is particularly suited for use by a windmill as it is open to wind from all four cardinal points of the compass.

### 2.4 Post-medieval

The site was enclosed pasture at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (when much land was common field or grazing). The area of the site appears as enclosed fields, this time wooded, on maps of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It has not been built on, although temporary structures and small scale quarrying of gravels are quite likely to be encountered. Fly-tipping has taken place on the site.



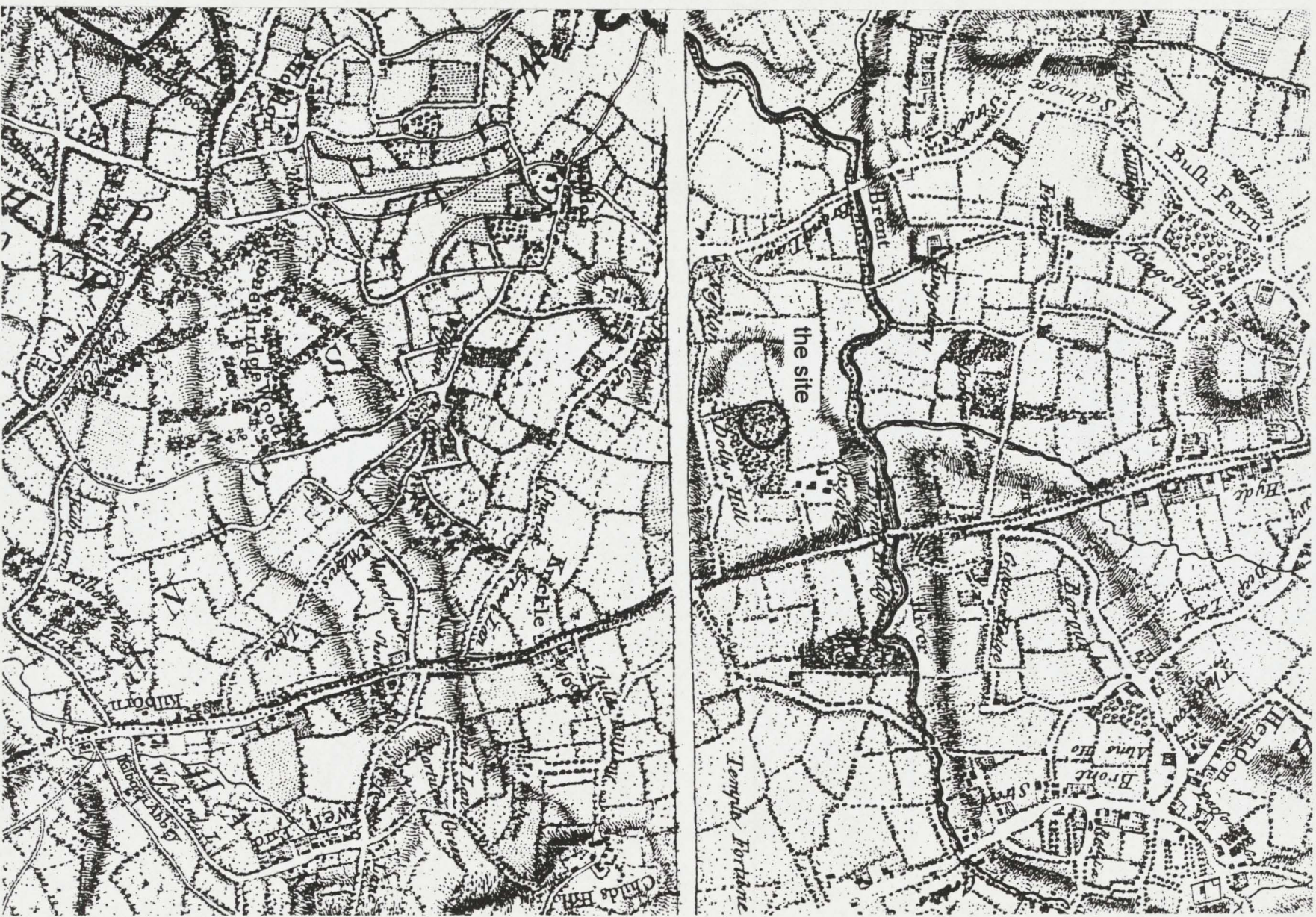


Figure 3. Rocque's map of 1754

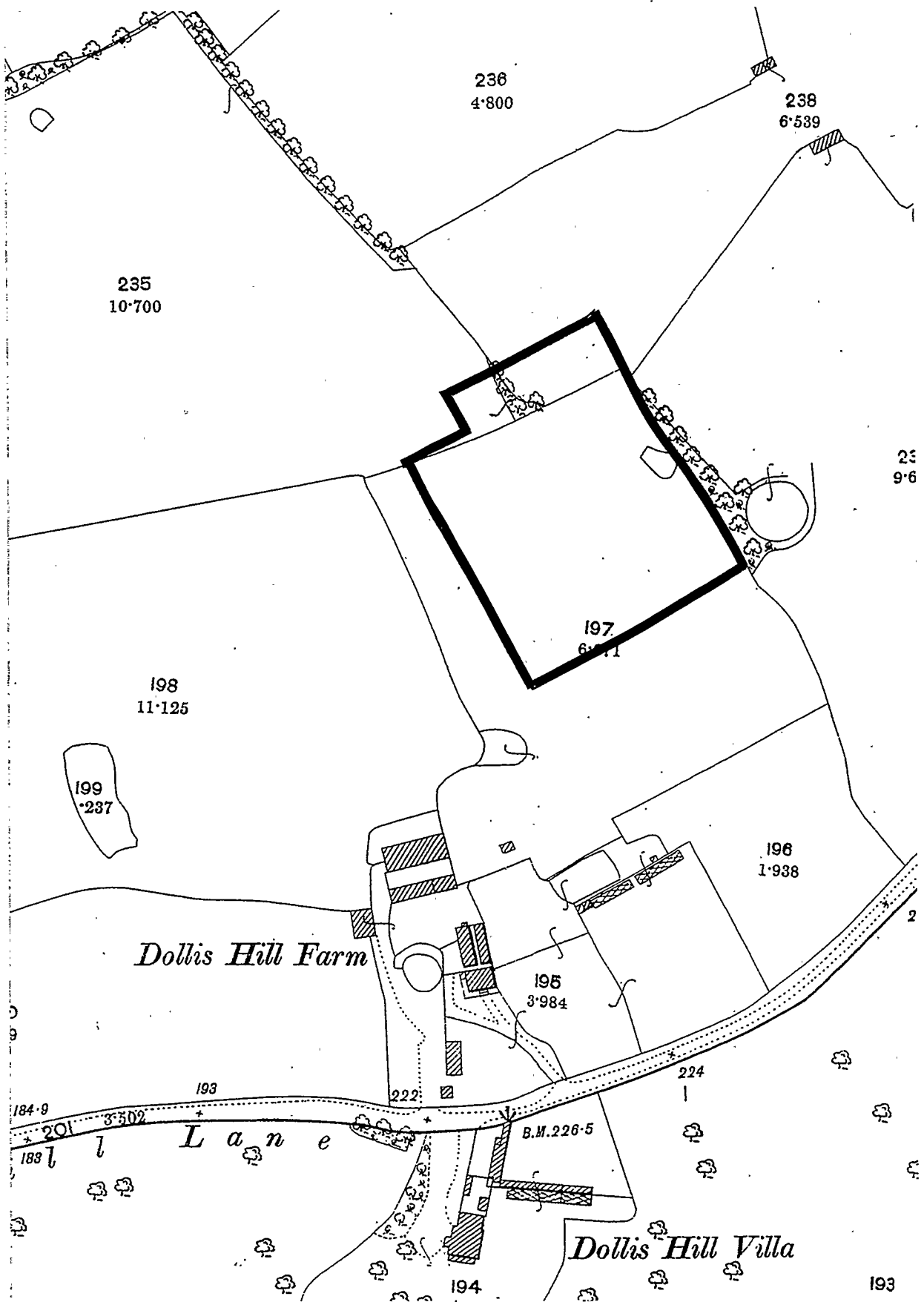


Figure 4. Ordnance Survey map of 1897

### 3 THE EVALUATION

#### 3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2000), and the *MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

The positions of the 32 trenches were laid out by the MoLAS surveyors prior to the evaluation commencing and according to the plan provided in the brief. In the first instance the trenches were excavated by JCB and CAT wheeled back-hoe excavators. These proved inadequate for some of the terrain and a 13-ton tracked excavator was brought in to finish at least one abandoned trench and the boggy areas of the site (including a former pond). The trenches measured 20m x 2m in area. Trench 5 was cut short because it crossed a perimeter wet ditch. Trench 27 was shortened to 15.2m where it became unsafe to examine the trench due to excessive depth as the natural ground was here truncated by 19<sup>th</sup>-century gravel quarries backfilled with ash or nightsoil. Trench 12 was extended to examine the course of a feature from which pottery had been derived and a small 2m x 5.2m additional trench was excavated adjacent to trench 2 for the same reasons.

All the trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural geological strata, either gravels or weathered London clay. In most cases gravels were encountered and a deep sondage through these was cut in areas without possible later cut features. The upcast from these sondages was examined for Palaeolithic implements (such as hand axes), and the sections were examined for silt pockets or layers which might indicate stabilisation within a fluvial sequence. All trenches were planned and a long section drawn at 1:100.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were taken at either end of the trenches. These were derived from the OS Bench Mark on the perimeter wall of the Lodge on Dollis Hill Lane.

The site has produced the following records:

- 1 AutoCAD computer trench location plan
- 33 plans
- 32 sections
- 2 standard drawing sheets with details of the levels traverse and topographic level survey
- context register
- 6 context record sheets.

Archaeological features have been digitised using AutoCAD.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code BKO00 in the MoLAS archive.

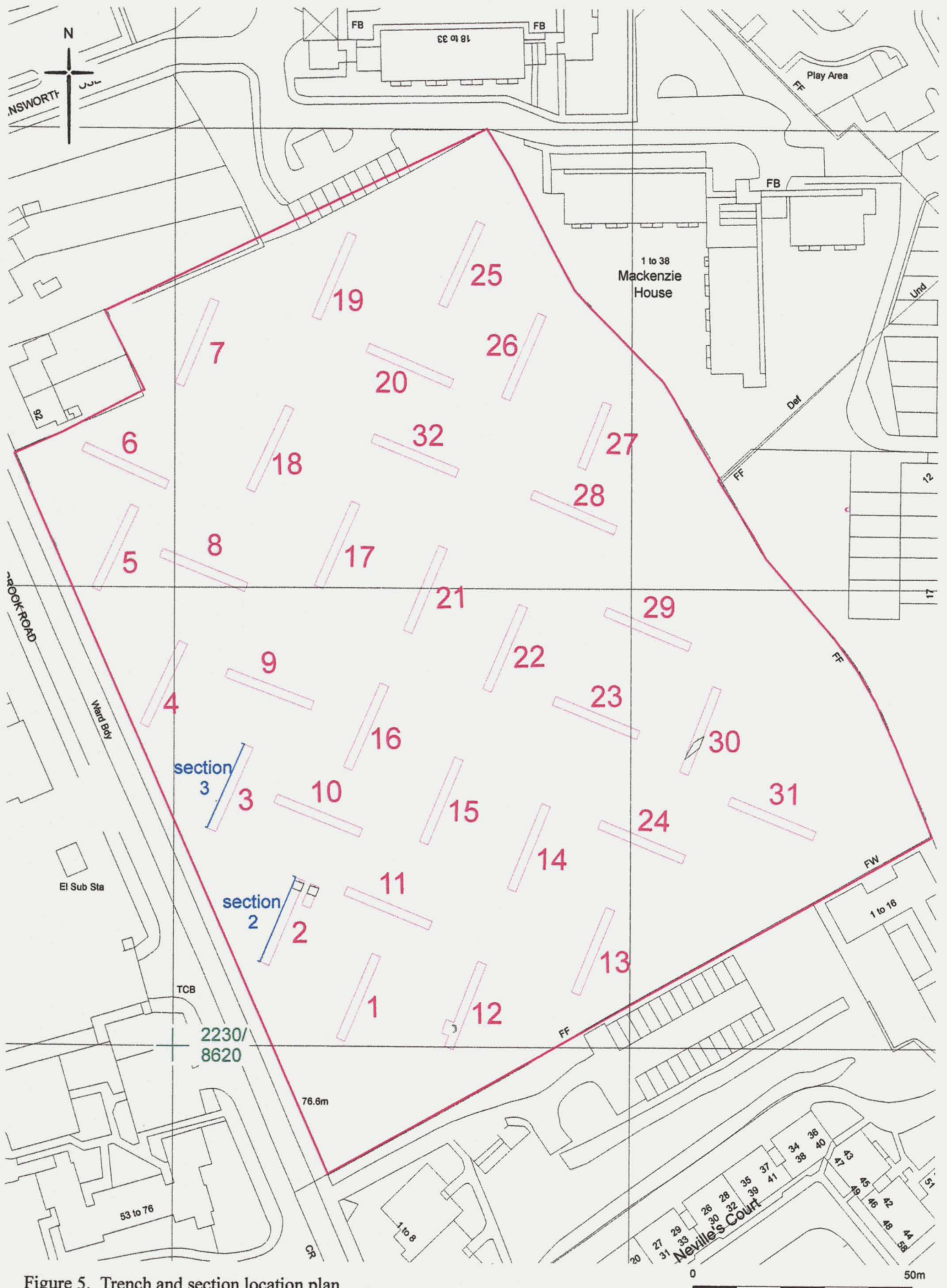


Figure 5. Trench and section location plan

### 3.2 Results of the Evaluation

For trench locations see Figure 5. All trenches measured 20m by 2m except Trench 5 (14m x 2m) and Trench 27 (15.2m x 2m). The OD heights for the trenches are shown on Table 1. Plans and Sections of selected evaluation trenches have been reproduced in the report.

#### *Evaluation Trench 1*

Evaluation Trench 1 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels in the northern half of the trench and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.5m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 2*

Evaluation Trench 2 measured 20m by 2m (Figures 6 & 7). Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was between 0.40m (north) and 1.3m (south) thick. The topsoil sealed a linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, located in the northern end of the trench. The feature [2] measured up to 1.80m in width and a minimum of 2m in length, extending beyond the western and eastern limits of excavation. It was up to 0.40m deep and the base was rounded. The fill [1] produced Roman pottery dating to AD 250-400 (Alice Holt/Farnham Ware).

The linear feature, interpreted as a truncated Roman ditch, cut into the underlying natural gravels. The Dollis Hill gravels were up to 1.4m thick and sealed the London Clay.

#### *Evaluation Trench 2A*

An additional trench was opened to the east of Trench 2 to determine whether the shallow Roman ditch extended to the east. Trench 2A measured 5m by 2m and was located 1.4m to the east of Trench 2. The ditch continued through Trench 2A, continuing to the east, but was not however present in Trench 11.

#### *Evaluation Trench 3*

Evaluation Trench 3 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.5m (see Figure 8).

#### *Evaluation Trench 4*

Evaluation Trench 4 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels were a minimum of 1.5m thick.



#### *Evaluation Trench 5*

Evaluation Trench 5 measured 14m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.4m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 6*

Evaluation Trench 6 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.6m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 7*

Evaluation Trench 7 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.50m thick. A sondage in the centre of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.7m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 8*

Evaluation Trench 8 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.6m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 9*

Evaluation Trench 9 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.8m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 10*

Evaluation Trench 10 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.6m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 11*

Evaluation Trench 11 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.5m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 12*

Evaluation Trench 12 measured 20m by between 2m and 3.8m wide. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. The topsoil also sealed a curvilinear feature [4] (see Figure 9). It measured 0.30m wide and deep but described a semi-circle just under 2m in diameter. The fill of the feature [3] contained a fragment of Roman mortarium (a heavy bowl with a gritted base) in Oxford Ware,

dating to AD 270-400. The trench was subsequently enlarged to the west to investigate the feature.

The curvilinear ditch cut through the Dollis Hill gravels. The Dollis Hill gravels were up to 1.1m thick and sealed the London Clay.

#### *Evaluation Trench 13*

Evaluation Trench 13 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.3m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 14*

Evaluation Trench 14 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.3m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 15*

Evaluation Trench 15 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the northern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.6m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 16*

Evaluation Trench 16 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.4m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 17*

Evaluation Trench 17 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the northern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 2m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 18*

Evaluation Trench 18 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.5m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 19*

Evaluation Trench 19 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage towards the centre of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.5m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 20*

Evaluation Trench 20 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.30m thick. A sondage at the northern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.3m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 21*

Evaluation Trench 21 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the northern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.2m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 22*

Evaluation Trench 22 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.3m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 23*

Evaluation Trench 23 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. A sondage at the northern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.3m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 24*

Evaluation Trench 24 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.50m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.8m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 25*

Evaluation Trench 25 measured 20m by 2m. A dump of 19<sup>th</sup> century date overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.60m thick. The Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.1m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 26*

Evaluation Trench 26 measured 20m by 2m. Nineteenth century dump or quarry backfill overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.90m thick. The dump deposit sealed the London Clay.

#### *Evaluation Trench 27*

Evaluation Trench 27 measured 15m by 2m. A 19<sup>th</sup> century deposit containing ash-nightsoil and bottles cut through the surviving topsoil. The dump measured a minimum of 13.5m SW-NE and was up to 1.5m deep. The topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.50m thick. A sondage at the northern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.8m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 28*

Evaluation Trench 28 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.40m thick. The Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.25m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 29*

Evaluation Trench 29 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.30m thick. Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 0.2m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 30*

Evaluation Trench 30 measured 20m by 2m (Figure 10). Topsoil overlay the London Clay and was up to 0.40m thick. A linear feature [5], aligned northeast-southwest, was also sealed by the topsoil. The feature measured 1.22m wide, up to 0.4m deep and was a minimum of 2.4m in length, extending beyond the limits of the evaluation trench. Pottery recovered from the fill of this probable ditch dates to AD 250-400.

#### *Evaluation Trench 31*

Evaluation Trench 31 measured 20m by 2m. Modern bricks (fly-tipping material) overlay the topsoil. The topsoil sealed the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.75m thick. A sondage at the northern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1.2m.

#### *Evaluation Trench 32*

Evaluation Trench 32 measured 20m by 2m. Topsoil overlay the Dollis Hill sands and gravels and was up to 0.30m thick. A sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the Dollis Hill gravels overlay the London Clay to a depth of 1m.

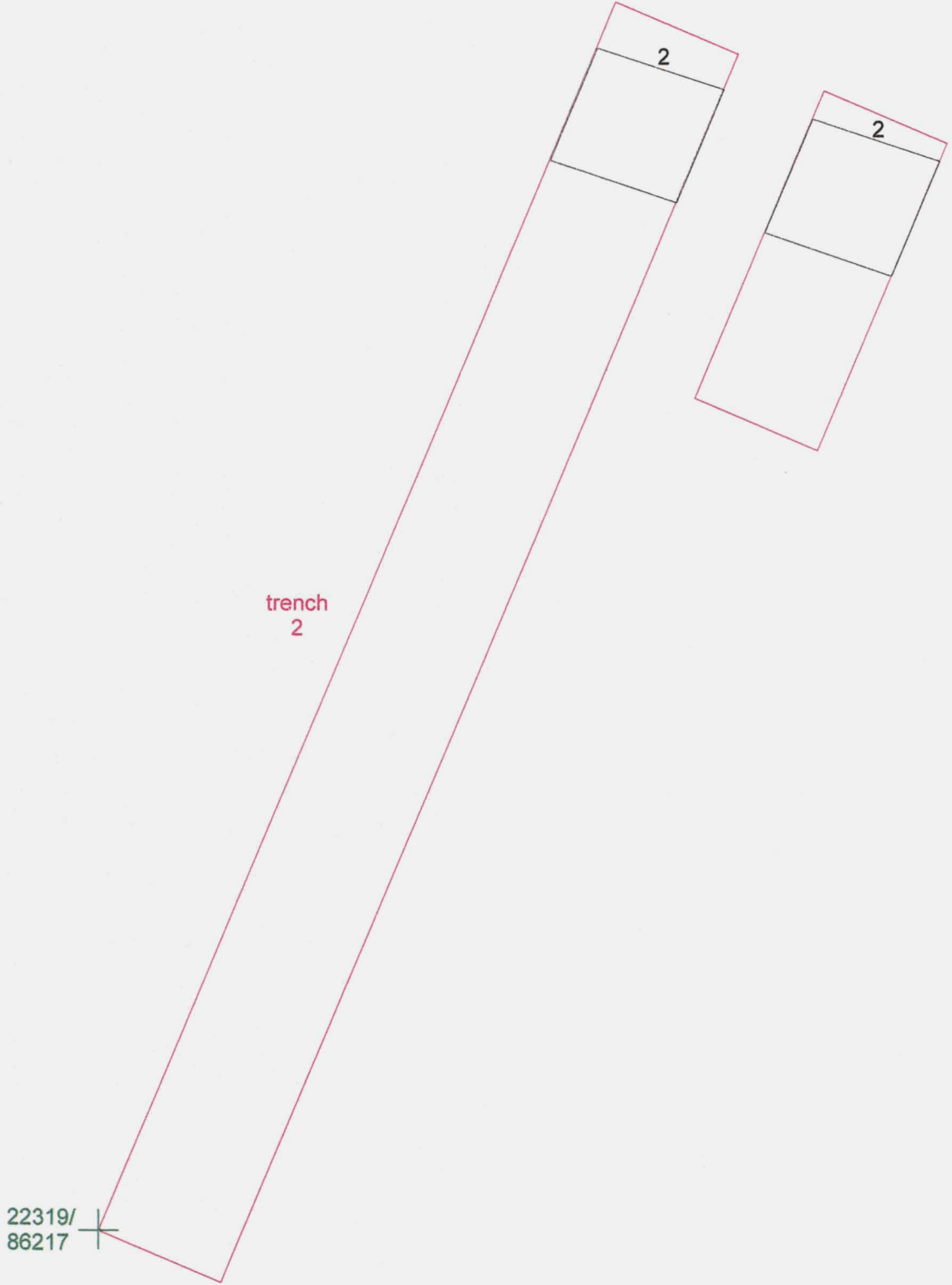


Figure 6. Plan of Trench 2



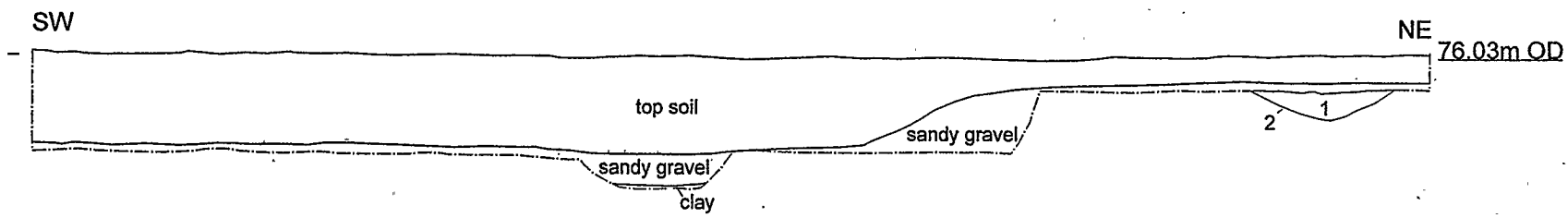


Figure 7. Southeast facing Section 2 of Trench 2

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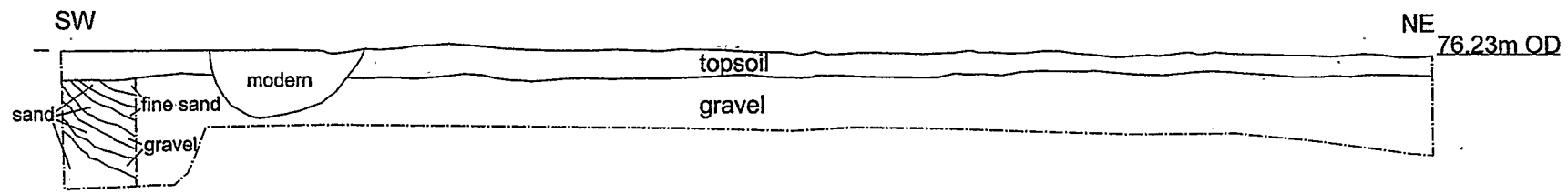


Figure 8. Southeast facing Section 3 of Trench 3



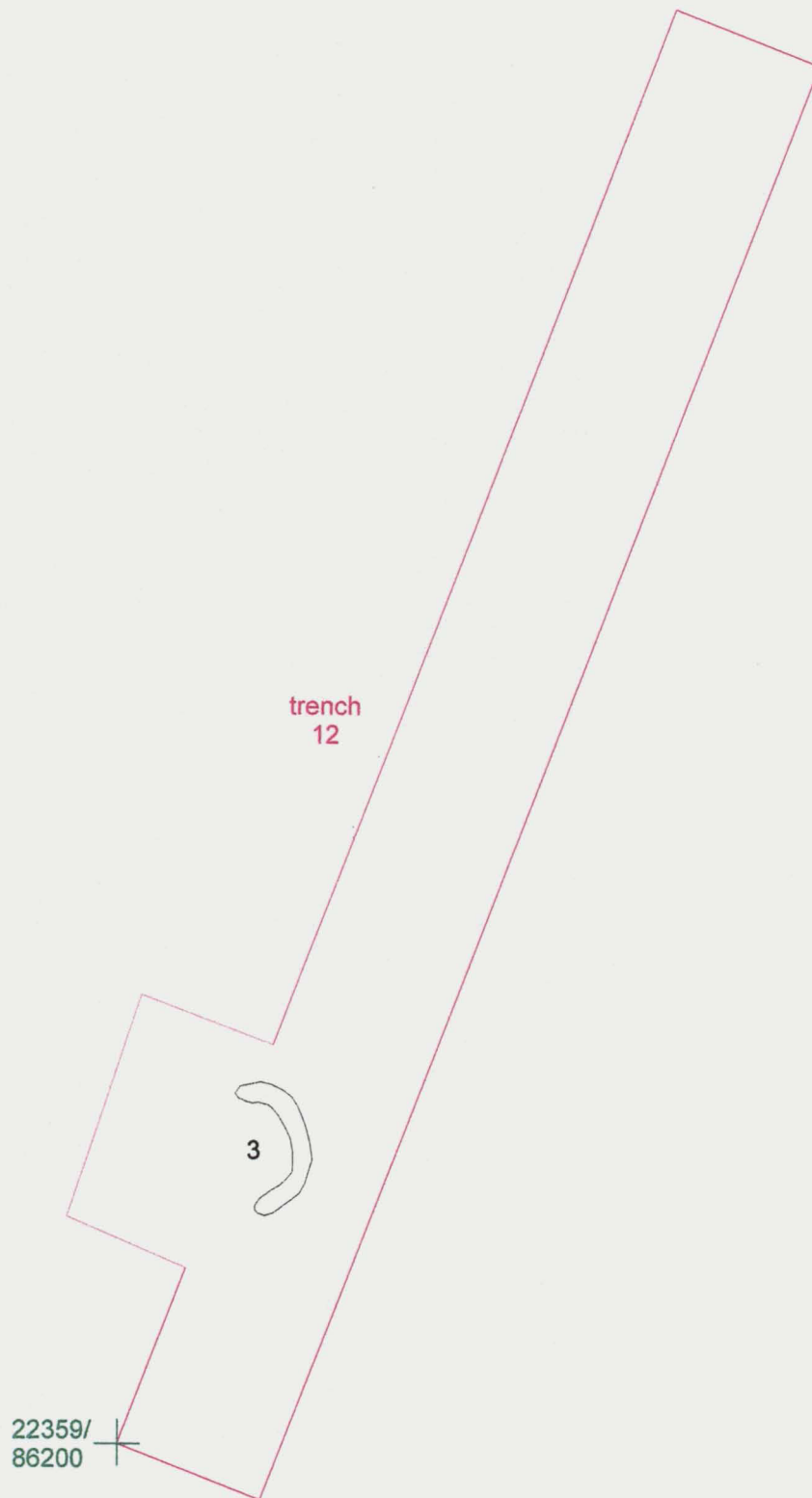
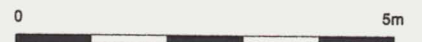


Figure 9. Plan of Trench 12



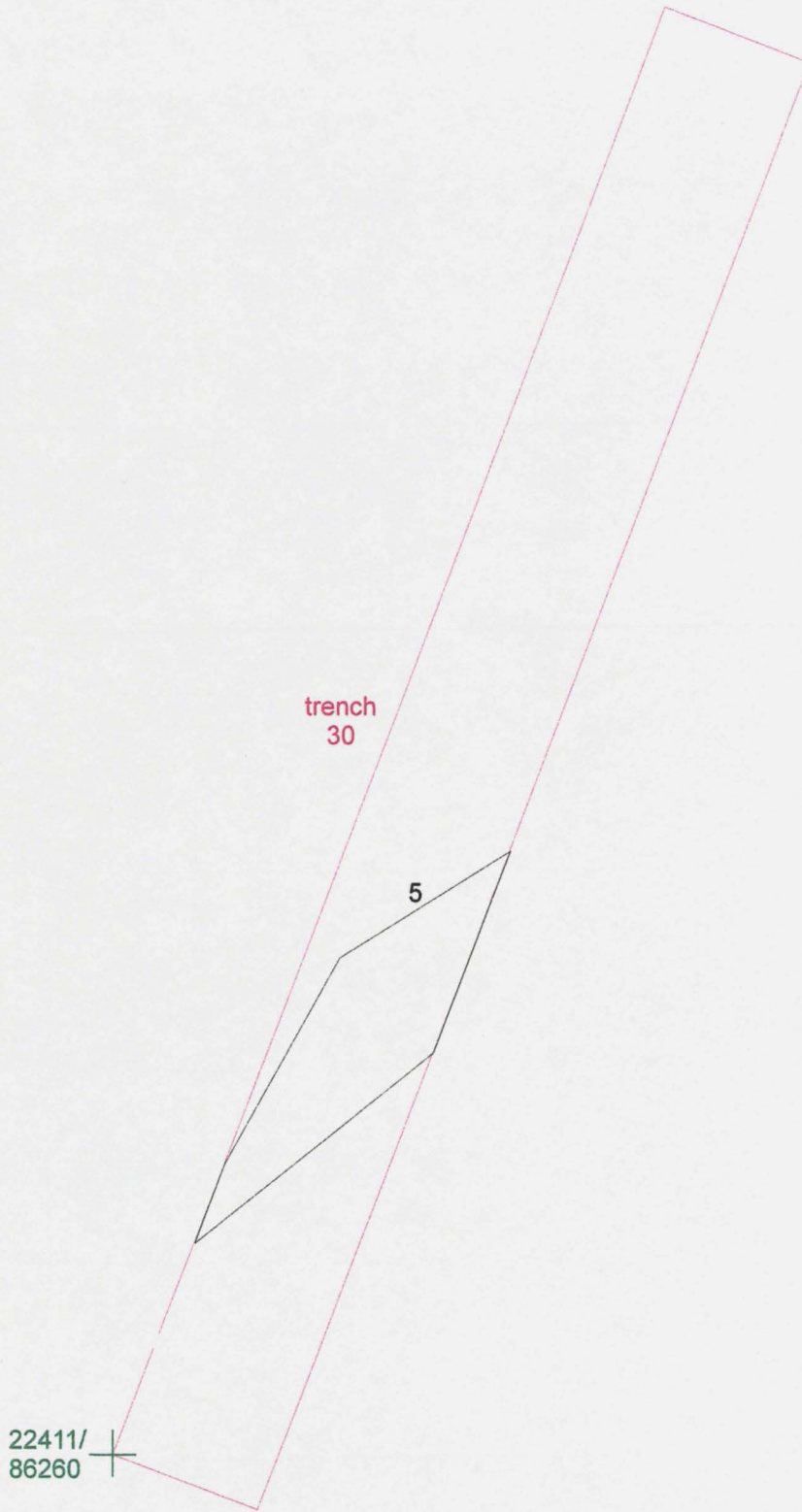


Figure 10. Plan of Trench 30





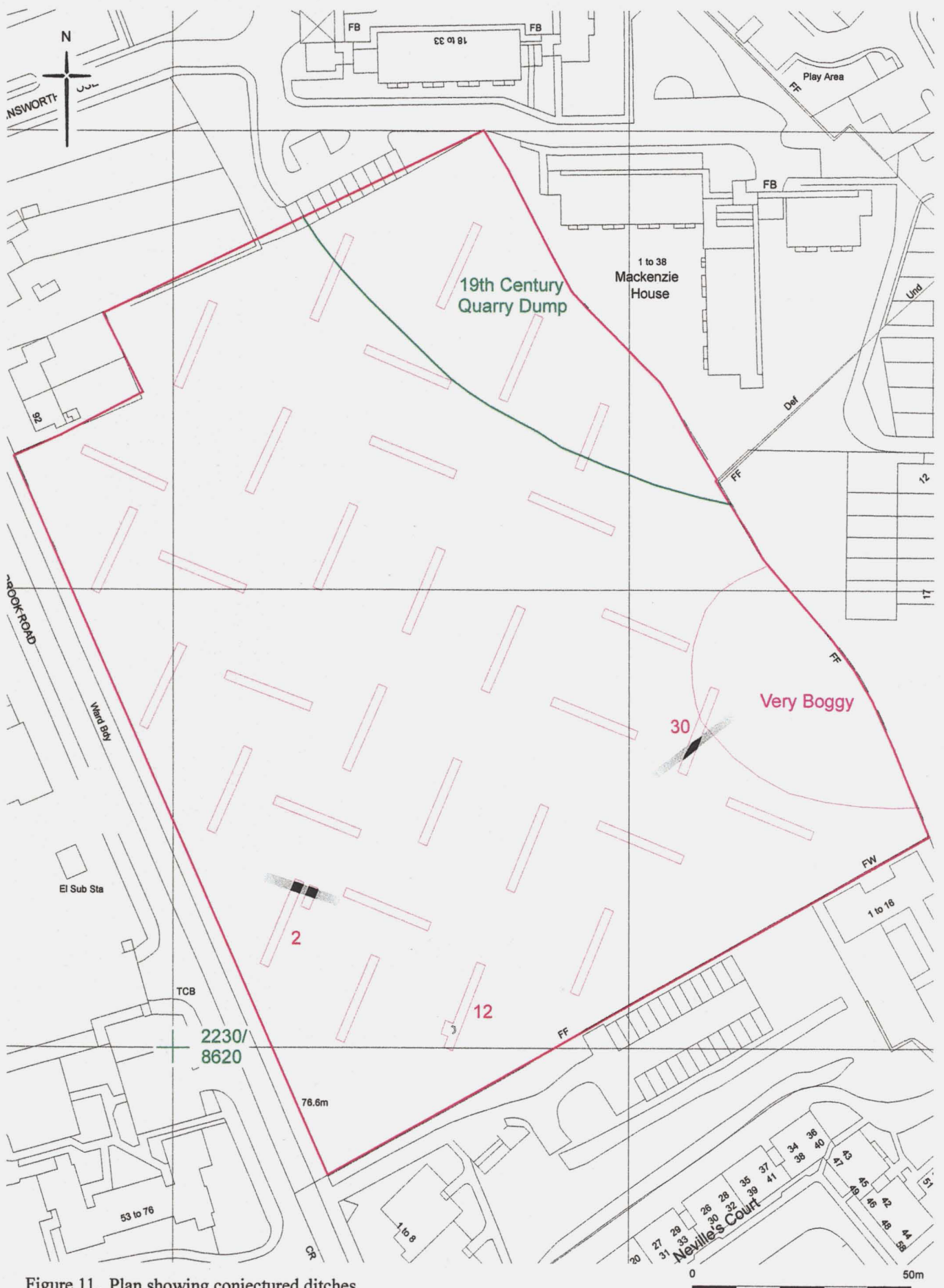


Figure 11. Plan showing conjectured ditches

Table 1: Summary of OD heights for Evaluation Trenches

Trench	Ground level in metres above OD		Depth to gravels	Depth to clay	Comments
	South	North			
1	75.41	75.95	0mm-400mm	1.5m	Former pond
2	76.03	76.34	400mm-1.3m	1.8m	Former pond
3	76.23	75.49	400mm	>2m	Gravel cross-bedding
4	75.01	74.39	400mm	>2m	Modern intrusion (SW end)
5	73.55	72.74	400mm	900mm	
6	73.21	72.50	500mm	1.1m	
7	71.86	71.07	500mm	1.2m	
8	74.53	73.52	400mm	2.1m	
9	75.73	74.81	400mm	2.6m	Horizontally-bedded gravels
10	76.30	76.06	400mm	2.2m	
11	76.22	76.00	400mm	2.2m	
12	75.51	75.88	400mm	1.5m	Former pond
13	75.90	75.63	400mm	1.8m	
14	76.16	76.18	400mm	1.7m	
15	76.34	76.14	400mm	1.0m	
16	76.19	75.79	400mm	1.8m	
17	74.74	74.32	400m	2.4m	Horizontally-bedded gravels
18	73.56	72.68	400mm	900mm	
19	71.89	71.14	400m	800mm	19 <sup>th</sup> -century quarry/dump
20	73.27	72.51	300mm	700mm	
21	75.30	74.87	400mm	1.7m	
22	75.95	75.44	400mm	600mm	
23	76.08	76.03	400mm	700mm	
24	75.29	75.97	500mm	2.2m	
25	72.67	72.01	None	600mm	19 <sup>th</sup> -century quarry/dump
26	73.68	73.17	None	900mm	19 <sup>th</sup> -century quarry/dump
27	74.77	73.81	1.5m	2.2m	19 <sup>th</sup> -century quarry/dump
28	75.79	75.82	400mm	600mm	
29	75.84	75.96	300mm	500mm	
30	75.82	75.79	None	400mm	London Clay outcrop
31	75.63	75.80	750mm	1.8m	
32	74.32	73.81	300mm	1m	

### 3.2.1 Summary of the Results of the Evaluation

The gravels varied greatly in depth from exposure to exposure and exhibited both horizontal bedding, often in a fining upward sequence to laminar sands (iron depleted), and cross bedding. Given their varied depths within quite short distances they are interpreted as fluvial lag deposits from a relatively modest sized tributary of the north-flowing predecessor of the Thames. Their varying depths are accounted for by the migration of a meandering stream bed intercutting channels through the weathered surface of soft London Clay. The OD heights on the top of the natural gravels indicate a slope down to the north (71.36m OD-71.89m OD in the north, rising to 74.8m OD-75.82m OD to the south). The gravels varied in thickness from approximately 0.8m-1.2m to the north to 1.5m-2.2m in the south. No **Palaeolithic** remains were observed.

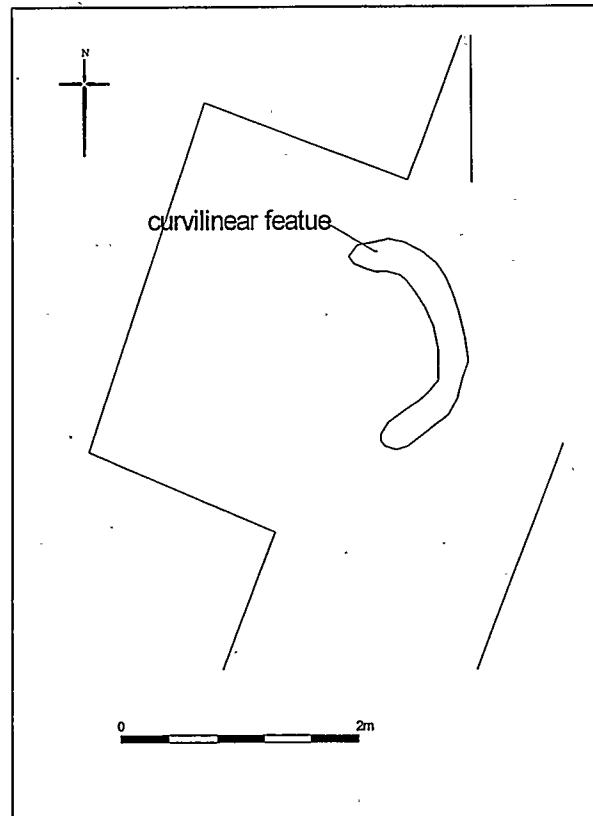
The truncated bases of two ditches, both approximately 1.3m wide by 500mm deep, with rounded bases, were located in Trenches 2 and 30. They were both near the brow

of the hill at the southern end of the site and were not aligned with each other (an auxiliary trench dug adjacent to Trench 2 indicated that it continued in a straight line) (see Figure 11). Both ditches contained **Roman** pottery dating AD 250-400 (Alice Holt / Farnham Ware).

A further feature was exposed in Trench 12; a curvilinear v-shaped cut, only 300mm deep and wide but describing a half circle just under 2m diameter. This contained a fragment of a Roman mortar (*mortarium*, a heavy bowl with gritted base) made of Oxford ware and dated later than AD270.

A large area of the north-east corner of the site had been quarried in the **19<sup>th</sup> century** and backfilled with ash-nightsoil, finds included tobacco pipe, glass vessels and typical hard paste stonewares (Trenches 19, 25, 26 & 27). The quarries exceeded 1.4m deep in Trench 27 but elsewhere were substantially shallower.

An area at the south-west corner of the site had been truncated by a **pond**, filled recently (Trenches 1, 2 & 12).



Ground level varied from 76.34m AOD to 71.18m AOD and, where not removed, the topsoil was uniformly 400mm thick.

### 3.3 Assessment of the Evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation 'in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy'. In the case of this site 32 trenches gave a reasonable chance of discovering any possible remains. Excavated through to natural, they also revealed small and large modern intrusions and quarrying. Archaeological deposits survived only in cut features.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL**

### **4.1 Realisation of original research aims**

ORA1.6.1 Is there any evidence of Palaeolithic activity on site?

No evidence of Palaeolithic activity was recorded on the site.

ORA1.6.2 To determine if there is any evidence of prehistoric settlement on site.

No evidence of prehistoric settlement was present on the site.

### **4.2 General discussion of potential**

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is nil or minimal (some of the horizontally bedded sand deposits at the top of lag gravels may be temporary surfaces). There is also potential for survival of cut features. However such survival is likely to be limited to certain areas of the site because of modern truncations and 19<sup>th</sup>-century quarry/dumps (see Figure 11). The average depth of archaeological deposits where they do survive is likely to be 500mm.

### **4.3 Significance**

Whilst the Roman remains are undoubtedly of considerable local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance. The relationship between the Roman features on this site and elsewhere in north London is of significance. The evaluation has produced the first evidence for Roman occupation in the Dollis Hill area. No evidence for Palaeolithic activity was recovered from the site.

## 5 ASSESSMENT BY ENGLISH HERITAGE CRITERIA

The recommendations of the GLAAS 1998 guidelines on *Evaluation Reports* suggest that there should be:

‘Assessment of results against original expectations (using criteria for assessing national importance of period, relative completeness, condition, rarity and group value) .....’ (Guidance Paper V, 4 7)

A set of guidelines was published by the Department of the Environment with criteria by which to measure the importance of individual monuments for possible Scheduling. These criteria are as follows: *Period; Rarity; Documentation; Survival/Condition; Fragility/Vulnerability; Diversity; and Potential*. The guidelines stress that ‘these criteria should not...be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case’.<sup>3</sup>

In the following passages the potential archaeological survival described in the initial Assessment document and Section 3.2 above will be assessed against these criteria.

### *Criterion 1: Period*

There are known late-Roman remains on the site. The transition from Roman occupation to English settlement is of particular interest.

### *Criterion 2: Rarity*

Whilst Roman remains are not rare in Greater London they are locally rare.

### *Criterion 3: Documentation*

There are no surviving contemporary documentary records for remains in the area from the Roman period.

### *Criterion 4: Group Value*

None of the likely archaeological deposits are associated with contemporary single Monuments external to the site.

### *Criterion 5: Survival/Condition*

The evidence above has demonstrated that archaeological remains will be horizontally truncated. The curvilinear feature is probably a tiny fragment of what once occupied the site

### *Criterion 6: Fragility*

Reservoir construction will totally remove surviving archaeological remains. Large areas of the site have been affected by previous activities, for example, the 19<sup>th</sup> quarrying on the north-east part of the site, which it is likely to have removed all archaeological deposits in this area.

<sup>3</sup> Annex 4, DOE, Planning and Policy Guidance 16, (1990). For detailed definition of the criteria see that document. Reference has also been made to Darvill, Saunders & Startin, (1987); and McGill, (1995)

*Criterion 7: Diversity*

The known remains are of a single archaeological period.

*Criterion 8: Potential*

The remains can potentially shed light on the land-use and activities of the rural hinterland of Roman London.

## 6 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed redevelopment involves constructing a twin-celled reservoir. The construction of the reservoir will remove surviving archaeological deposits on the site.

It is likely that the English Heritage Officer who monitors archaeology on behalf of the London Borough of Brent will recommend further work on the site. This is likely to take the form of a small scale excavation/examination of the remaining archaeological deposits in advance of any further ground reduction (*ie* preservation by record).

The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed within Trenches 2, 12 and 30 rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.

## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank.

Jane Sidell (English Heritage Adviser in Archaeological Science, London region) for visiting the site and discussing its Palaeolithic potential.

Robert Whytehead (English Heritage GLAAS) for monitoring the site.

Mike Lang Hall (Lang Hall Archaeology, for Thames Water) for commissioning the work and co-operating with its practical execution.

Tom Fowkes (Thames Water) for helping to look after the site.

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## 9 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

## 10 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

## 1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

Excavation

Watching brief

Other (please specify)

## 2) LOCATION

Borough: Brent

Site address: Land adjacent to 92 Brook Road London NW2

Site name: Dollis Hill Reservoir

Site code: BKO00

Nat. Grid Refs:

centre of site: TQ2235 8628

limits of site

a)

b)

c)

d)

## 3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society:

**Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS)**Address: **87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB**Site director/supervisor: **David Sankey** Project Manager: **Elizabeth Howe**Funded by: **Thames Water**

## 4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started: **5.4.2000**Date finished: **12.4.2000**

Fieldwork previously notified?

YES/NO

Fieldwork will continue?

YES/NO/NOT KNOWN

## 5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic

Roman

Mesolithic

Saxon (pre-AD 1066)

Neolithic

Medieval (AD 1066-1485)

Bronze Age

Post-Medieval

Iron Age

Unknown

6) **PERIOD SUMMARIES** Use headings for each period (ROMAN; MEDIEVAL; etc.), and additional sheets if necessary.

ROMAN

*Two ditches and a curvilinear cut feature containing mid-late 3<sup>rd</sup> century, or later, pottery were revealed.*

POST-MEDIEVAL

*19<sup>th</sup> century quarry pits and dumping.*

7) **NATURAL** (state if not observed; please DO NOT LEAVE BLANK)

Type: Dollis Hill Gravels

Height above Ordnance Datum: 75.6m

8) **LOCATION OF ARCHIVES**

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

Notes	Plans	7 standard sheets of plans	PHotos	NGatives
SLides	COrrrespondence		MScripts (unpub reports, etc.)	
BULK finds <shoebox		SMall finds	SOil samples	
Other (please specify)				

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

c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: YES/NO

Have you arranged for RCHME microfilming?: YES/NO

9) **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Sankey, D, 2000 Proposed Dollis Hill Reservoir, Land Adjacent to 92 Brook Road, London NW2: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

DATE: Thursday, 20 April 2000

NAME (Block capitals): DAVID SANKEY

Please return the completed form to:

English Heritage, The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record,  
Room 214, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB.  
Tel 071-973-3731/3779. Direct fax: 0171-973-3742/3792