

Equestrian Skills Centre at 341, Shooters Hill, London Borough of Greenwich: Results of Archaeological Evaluation

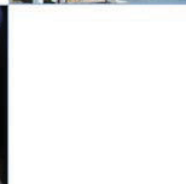
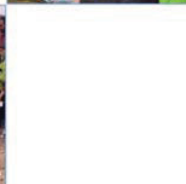
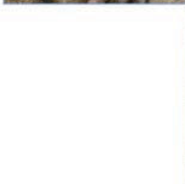
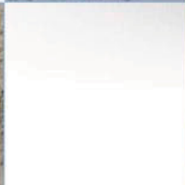
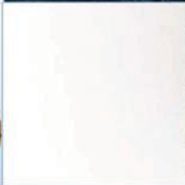
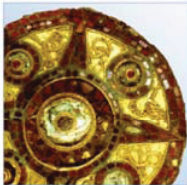
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ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Equestrian Skills Centre at 341, Shooters Hill, London Borough of Greenwich:

Results of Archaeological Evaluation

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Summary

A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the site of the proposed Equestrian Skills Centre at 341, Shooters Hill. The site is currently occupied by the grounds and the farmhouse of Woodlands Farm. The site showed no archaeological features of significance: the archaeological record is dominated by root disturbance from post-medieval plantings, by a general agricultural horizon and scant building remains of 19th century date.

The trenches contained no residual finds that hinted at any use in any older historic or prehistoric period. In the light of these results, it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required on the site.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation at land around the farmhouse at Woodlands Farm, on Shooters Hill in Greenwich. It is proposed to develop the site in order to provide an 'Equestrian Skills Centre' as part of the Olympic legacy. The archaeological works comprised of the excavation of eight trenches, measuring up to 30m length x 1.8m width, constrained by the location of active services and mature trees. The trenches were located within the area of proposed new builds.
- 1.2 The application site occupies a parcel of land on the northern side of Shooters Hill (A207) opposite Oxleas Wood Nature Reserve. Woodlands Farm Trust lies to the west, with Shooters Hill Golf Course beyond, and there is open pasture to the north and Thomson's Plant and Garden Centre to the east (Figure 1). The site is roughly square, with an irregular northern boundary, and occupies an area of c. 1.4ha. The site was formerly occupied by a group of buildings known as Woodlands, with its associated farm to the west. The buildings are to be retained, with new equestrian facilities being built around them.

2. Development Proposal and Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Greenwich. Archaeological advice to the borough is provided by Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.2 Shooters Hill is located in an Area of High Potential for Archaeology, as defined on the Unitary Development Plan for the London Borough of Greenwich. This area includes the southern part of the site, as well as an area 600m to the northwest. Shrewsbury Park Estate Conservation Area lies some 600m to the north.
- 2.3 The site does not contain any Scheduled Monuments nor Listed Buildings, and the site neither contains nor lies within the area of any defined World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Areas of Historic Woodland.
- 2.4 The proposed development (Planning Application Ref No: 11/1765/F) regards the erection of a new equestrian centre including the refurbishment of the former farm houses to provide an indoor arena plus viewing area, outdoor all weather arena, horse walker, therapy centre and four holding stables, stabling for 20 horses including feed room/rug room and with attached yard office, two isolation stables, car parking for 21 vehicles including two disabled persons parking spaces, coach pick-up/drop-off area, vehicular access and space for three horseboxes, hay and straw barn, tractor and 4 x 4 vehicle garage, laboratory and three classroom blocks, farrier and treatment area, external washdown area and muckheap enclosure and horse crossing (to Oxleas wood).
- 2.5 Evaluation trenching was required as a condition on the granting of planning permission for the site. Condition 15 reads: *No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.* Reason: To ensure that any archaeological remains are preserved and accord with Policy D30 of the Unitary Development Plan July 2006 and Policies 7.8 of the London Plan July 2011.

2.6 The next stage in the archaeological process was creation of a Written Scheme of Investigation, detailing the methodology that would be used for the archaeological evaluation and including some background history of the site (AOC 2011). This document was approved by Mark Stevenson of GLAAS, and was designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
- Institute of Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 2008)
- English Heritage - Archaeological Guidance Papers 3-4 London Region (EH 1998a-b)
- DoCLG – Planning Policy Statement (PPS5): Planning for the Historic Environment (DoCLG 2010)

3. Geology and Topography

3.1 The British Geological Survey mapping (BGS Sheet 271) of this area indicates that the solid geology underlying the site and surrounding area is the London Clay formation. This is an Eocene marine deposit, laid down c. 55 million years ago. There is superficial, drift geology overlying the London Clay recorded immediately west of the site, in the location of St Mildred's Church; here head deposits of sand and clay with variable gravel content have been recorded.

3.2 The site is located approximately 3km south of the River Thames, lying at around 66mOD.

3.3 Geotechnical investigations conducted upon the site in May 2011 are reported as identifying a horizon of made ground of 0.45m to 1.45m depth (PCA 2008).

4. Archaeological And Historical Background

4.1 Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

4.1.1 Evidence for human habitation of the general area around Woolwich and Greenwich is sparsely represented in the archaeological record. London Clay is poorly drained, so the area is likely to have been woodland rather than farmland. More widely, there is evidence for prehistoric activity, including an Iron Age Hill fort at Charlton and a defensive enclosure by the river in Woolwich (PCA 2008). Flint implements of uncertain date have been recorded at Shooters Hill.

4.1.2 The Palaeolithic period is represented by only a single entry on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the local area, being an assembly of animal bones recorded from a brickfield in Plumstead in 1901. There is no nearby evidence for Mesolithic period activity in the area.

4.1.3 The Neolithic period is represented by two finds that are more significant: an axe from Shrewsbury Park to the north, and a sickle from Bellegrove Road.

4.1.4 There are three entries of the HER for burial mounds or barrows dating to the Bronze Age. Two of these are reported to have been destroyed prior to being recorded.

4.1.5 The Iron Age is only represented on the HER by a two features, a boundary ditch found at Eaglesfield Park, and a possible iron-working site.

4.2 Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

4.2.1 The Roman period is strongly represented in the area by the presence of Watling Street, which is the road linking London with Dover. Shooters Hill, becoming Dover Road, follows the line of the Roman

Road, and evidence for what appeared to be roadside ditches was revealed to the west of the site in 1995 (Site Code SSH95). Despite the presence of the road, the nearest settlement evidence is closer to the Thames, with cremations and a cemetery around Dial Square, the Royal Arsenal and Royal Dockyard. The settlement is yet to be located, but there is further evidence for Roman land-use at Greenwich Park, with a temple, and finds from Blackheath, Erith, Greenwich and Welling. The nearest findspot on the HER is a coin from the west of the site (SSH 95). However, roadside development is a frequent feature of the Roman period, so this site has some potential for Roman activity.

4.3 Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066)

- 4.3.1 There is no evidence in the HER for Saxon/early medieval archaeological remains in the immediate area. There are Saxon settlements further afield, since the place names Greenwich, Plumstead and Welling are all of Saxon origin.

4.4 Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1536)

- 4.4.1 During the medieval period, the Roman road continued in use, and the area of the site appears to have been largely peripheral, away from settlement at Greenwich, Woolwich, Bexley and Eltham. The surviving Oxleas Wood may give a good approximation of the character of the area in the medieval period. The HER contains only one record of medieval date, a pottery vessel from Shooters Hill.

4.5 Post-Medieval and Modern Periods (AD 1536 – Present)

- 4.5.1 The area of the site and the site itself do not appear to have been built upon or inhabited until the post-medieval period, when Woodlands Farm was built. Woodlands Farm was created between 1800-1830 (Woodlands Farm History Group 2003) following partial clearance of Bushy Lees Wood. The current farmhouse on the site is dated to 1886 and is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1896, with the rest of the farm buildings to the west, on the site now used by Woodlands Farm Trust. The older buildings comprised a barn, stables and cottages, a cow-house and pig yard. The farm was purchased in 1919 by the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, and continued for years as a commercial concern.
- 4.5.2 The 20th century maps show a sequence of changes to the outbuildings and greenhouses on the site, although most is still shown as open land. One of the greenhouses is shown after the Second World War as a ruin, and may potentially have been ruined by blast damage caused by local bomb-hits.
- 4.5.3 The main house on the site is a three-storey brick building with a high-pitched roof and hung tiles in the Tudor revival style. It is now separate from the farm, its most recent use being an education centre for adults with learning difficulties, and has garden areas. A field to the rear is currently used for keeping donkeys.

5. Strategy

5.1 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.

- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable the archaeology advisor to the London Borough of Greenwich to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation

5.1.2 The specific aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- Determine the presence of any prehistoric to medieval activity on site.
- Determine the presence of any Roman remains on the site which may be road-side development, or part of the road structure itself.
- Assess the potential of the site to inform on the post-medieval development and chronology of the site between the end of the medieval period and the first buildings depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map
- Assess the degree and extent of truncation of below ground deposits may the most recent activities, including farming.
- To provide suitable information concerning the preservation in situ of archaeological deposits so as to inform further mitigation through foundation design or archaeological mitigation.

5.1.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

5.2 Methodology

5.2.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011). All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (see Section 2.8).

5.2.2 Eight trenches, numbered 1-8, were excavated (Figure 2) among areas due for development

5.2.3 Prior to commencing work, a unique site code (ESC 11) for the project was agreed in consultation with the Museum of London.

5.2.4 The evaluation was carried out over four days between 19th to 22nd December, 2011, and backfilled following recording, due to the lack of archaeological features.

5.2.5 Levels for each context were established; the temporary benchmark provided on a survey from the client, and confirmed with use of a GPS.

5.2.6 The site work was supervised by Les Capon under the overall management of Paul Mason. The site was monitored by Mark Stevenson of GLASS on behalf of the London Borough of Greenwich.

6. Results of Archaeological Evaluation

6.1 Trench 1

Context	Description	Depth	OD Height of deposit
100	Topsoil	0.11m	66.21m to 67.44m
101	Made ground	0.20m	67.34m
102	Buried Topsoil	0.20m	67.12m to 66.14m
105	Agricultural subsoil	0.05m	66.92m to 66.04m
106	Clay	NFE	66.87m to 65.99m

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the north of the site, in the field used to keep donkeys. It was oriented northeast-southwest. The trench measured 30m by 1.8m (Figure 3).
- 6.1.2 Naturally-lain yellowish brown clay (106) was the lowest deposit revealed, lying virtually level at 66.87mOD in the southwest, dropping to the northeast to 65.99. This was sealed by 0.05m depth of reworked pale yellowish brown silty clay, with occasional brick fragments and small gravel inclusions (105). This is thought to represent a subsoil horizon that has been reworked through agriculture.
- 6.1.3 The subsoil was cut by a series of rectangular pits, each 0.80m 0.50m in plan and laid in regular rows north-south and east west, at intervals of 2m. Each was given the same cut number [104], and one was excavated to determine its character. The cut had near-vertical sides and a flattish base with root intrusions. The fills were mottled brown silty clay with varied proportions of gritty dry tarmac, brick fragments and plastic (103). The regularity and similarity of each cut and its fill indicate that this group of features are the remains of a known orchard in the field, that was cleared in a single event of tree removal.
- 6.1.4 Two other features were investigated. A shallow pit [108] was 0.16m deep and quite irregular, being 0.42m across. The base had a narrow burrow-like hollow in one side that had a land-drain jammed in it. This probably represents a stopped-up animal burrow. The fill was greyish brown silty clay (107). The second feature was just 0.32m by 0.24m in plan, and was 0.06m deep [110]. The sides and base were quite irregular, and are likely to be the remains of another planting or burrow. The fill was greyish brown silty clay (109).
- 6.1.5 The agricultural soil was sealed by a layer of dark brown silty clay that was 0.10m deep (102). This was formerly topsoil, yet had been overlain by a layer of gravel (101) with more topsoil above (100). These upper two layers probably relate to the most recent use of the field for donkeys. The first layer of gravel is probably a layer laid down to consolidate the ground, and the upper soil mostly deriving from the donkeys. This lay at 67.44mOD in the southwest, falling to 66.21mOD to the northeast.
- 6.1.6 No finds or features of archaeological significance were present.

6.2 Trench 2

Context	Description	Depth	OD Height of deposit
200	Tarmac	0.11m	70.32m to 69.36m
201	Made ground	0.26m	70.21m to 69.25m
202	Made ground	0.82m	69.95m to 68.99m
203	Made ground	0.36m	69.09m to 68.56m
206	Clay	NFE	69.08m to 68.28m

- 6.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the west of the site, in an area of made ground topped with a tarmac surface. The northern extent of the trench was curtailed by a live electric service. The trench was oriented north-south and measured 26m by 2.0m.
- 6.2.2 Naturally-lain yellowish brown clay (206) was the lowest deposit revealed, dropping down by 0.8m to the north across the trench's length, from 69.08m to 68.28m. There was no subsoil apparent above the clay, rather a series of dumped layers had been lain down, raising the ground by up to 1.40m.
- 6.2.3 The clay was cut by a narrow channel [205] that was 0.25m deep, and held a pair of parallel ceramic land drains running downhill from the southwest to the northeast. Grey clay backfilled the cut over the drains (204). The lowest dump of made ground comprised dark greyish brown clay with occasional concentrations of gravel and building rubble, and appeared dumped from the north, lensing out southwards (203). This was sealed by a thick layer of made ground, up to 0.82m deep (202) that was uncompacted blackish brown silty sand, containing inclusions of building rubble, gravel, and a notable quantity of bottles. The sand is anomalous to the site, and clearly imported, whereas some of the bottles are probably from the site. A sample was examined, and included milk bottles of pint and ½-pint size, one named from the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, known to have used the site from 1919. The third layer of made ground was loose black, granular ashy silt (201), and was 0.26m thick, lying at between 70.21mOD in the south, dropping to 69.25mOD in the north. The made ground was sealed by tarmac and concrete, forming an area of hard standing, dropping by 1.00m from 70.32mOD in the south to 69.36mOD in the north
- 6.2.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were present.



Plate 1: Trench 2, Looking West

6.3 Trench 3

Context	Description	Depth	OD Height of deposit
300	Overburden	0.24m	68.72m
301	Topsoil	0.14m	68.48m
304	Made ground	0.12m	68.34m
305	Tarmac path	0.14m	68.34m
302	Subsoil	0.28	68.26m
303	Clay	NFE	67.98m

- 6.3.1 Trench 3 was between the farmhouse and the donkey field, and was limited in size by live services and semi-mature trees. It measured only 7m by 2m and was oriented southeast-northwest.
- 6.3.2 Naturally-lain yellowish brown clay (303) was the lowest deposit revealed, lying virtually level at 67.98mOD in the southeast, dropping slightly to the northwest. This was sealed by 0.28m depth of reworked pale yellowish brown silty clay, with occasional brick fragments and small gravel inclusions (302). This is thought to represent a subsoil horizon that has been reworked through agriculture. A single piece of dating evidence was retrieved from this deposit, part of the rim of a post-medieval redware dish with a lead glaze, dating to between 1600 and 1800. It was quite worn.
- 6.3.3 The subsoil was cut by a flat-based intrusion [306] oriented east-west that continued north beyond the trench limits. This was filled with solid tarmac (305) and represented a road or pathway established in the 20th century along the south side of the donkey field. The tarmac was slightly cambered on its south edge. A dump of loose dark yellowish brown silty clay (304) had been dumped south of the tarmac surface, up to 0.12m deep, and topsoil had developed over the top (301), being dark brown silty clay. The topsoil was sealed by a modern overburden comprising sticky brown clay with inclusions of plastic and building material. The top of the trench lay at 68.72mOD.
- 6.3.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were present.



Plate 2: Trench 3, Looking West

6.4 Trench 4

Context	Description	Depth	OD Height of deposit
400	Topsoil	0.40m	67.86m to 68.49m
401	Subsoil	0.30m	67.66m to 68.08m
403	Clay	NFE	67.88m to 67.36m

- 6.4.1 Trench 4 was located south of the donkey field, and was oriented east-west. The trench measured 33m by 2m in plan.
- 6.4.2 Naturally-lain yellowish brown clay (403) was the lowest deposit revealed, sloping down westwards from 67.68mOD in the east of the trench to 67.36mOD, an almost negligible drop of 1 in 100. The

naturally-lain clay was sealed by 0.30m depth of yellowish brown silty clay (401) with occasional brick fragments and small gravel inclusions. This is thought to represent a subsoil horizon that has been reworked through agriculture. One patch of the subsoil measuring 1.4m by 0.9m appeared to have more organic content (402), but had no securely-defined boundary, and was thought to represent the base of slightly deeper agricultural disturbance.

6.4.3 The agricultural soil was sealed by a layer of dark brown silty clay that was up to 0.40m deep, particularly to the east (400)

6.4.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were present.

6.5 Trench 5

Context	Description	Depth	OD Height of deposit
500	Topsoil	0.12m	71.27m to 71.34m
501	Made ground	0.26m	71.15m to 71.23m
502	Made ground	0.14m	70.90m to 70.95m
505	Clay	NFE	70.70m

6.5.1 Trench 5 was located in the southwest corner of the site, in a parcel of land used as a carpark and recycling store. It was oriented north-south, and measured 12m by 2.0m, constrained by a live sewer and a boundary fence (Figure 4). The trench was continued northwards and identified as Trench 8.

6.5.2 Naturally-lain yellowish brown clay (505) was the lowest deposit revealed, lying virtually level at 70.70mOD. The clay was cut by a pit with steep sides and squared corners and a flat base, that was 0.8m wide and 0.50m deep [504]. The fill was soft dark brownish grey silty clay, with inclusions of small stones and clinker and was quite organic (503). This is most likely a planting pit.



Plate 3: Trench 5, Looking West

6.5.3 The fill of the pit was sealed by a layer of yellowish brown silty clay, possibly redeposited (502) natural geology, that was 0.14m deep. Above this was a layer of dark grey silty clay, with angular stones, brick fragments and plastic (501), evidence of it being generally turned over and reworked.

This was compact, and was sealed by a layer of mixed tarmac and gravel (500), forming the surface of the carpark area, lying virtually level between 71.27mOD and 71.34mOD.

6.5.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were present.

6.6 Trench 6

Context	Description	Depth	OD Height of deposit
600	Topsoil	0.32m	68.71m to 68.88m
601	Made ground	0.10m	68.61m to 68.80m
602	Agricultural soil	0.21m	68.56m to 68.74m
603	Clay	NFE	68.54m to 68.46m



Plate 4: Trench 6, Looking Northwest

6.6.1 Trench 6 was located within an area of saplings and semi-mature trees to the east of the farmhouse. It was originally plotted as two trenches, but in the field, it made more sense to run the two together,

making a continual slot across the potential archaeological horizon for a length of 56m. The trench was oriented southeast-northwest.

- 6.6.2 Naturally-lain yellowish brown clay (603) was the lowest deposit revealed, lying virtually level at 68.50mOD. It was sealed by a layer of dark brown silty clay with high organic content, had inclusions of gravel, brick fragments, and was heavily root-disturbed throughout its entire length (602). At the northern end of the trench, this was sealed by 0.10m depth of made ground (601), which was generally uncompacted soft dark brown sandy silt with frequent chalk flecks. The top layer in the trench was soft dark brownish grey clayey silt with inclusions of brick rubble, glass and small stones, and was up to 0.32m deep, its surface lying at 68.71m in the south, rising slightly to 68.88mOD.
- 6.6.3 No finds or features of archaeological significance were present.

6.7 Trench 7

Context	Description	Depth	OD Height of deposit
700	Topsoil	0.56m	70.73m to 70.91m
701	Gravel layer	0.26m	70.51m to 70.71m
702	Disturbed ground	0.15m	70.38m to 70.50m
705	Clay	NFE	70.35m to 70.23m

- 6.7.1 Trench 7 was located in the south of the site, between the 1886 house and the road. Its size was limited by the presence of live services, and as a result, measured just 12m by 2m, oriented east-west.
- 6.7.2 Naturally-lain yellowish brown clay (705) was the lowest deposit revealed, lying at 70.35m at the western end of the trench, dropping slightly eastwards to 70.23mOD. Towards the western end of the trench, this was cut by a square-cornered feature which continued north beyond the trench edge [704]. The cut had vertical edges and a flat base, and was 0.15m deep. The fill was soft, mid brown sandy clay with flecks of brick and tile, and occasional 18th/19th century pottery fragments. At the edges of the cut were concentrations of crushed chalk. The shape of the cut and the inclusions in the fill indicate that this is the base of a planting pit. At the eastern end of the trench was a spread of greyish brown clay (702) with brick fragments, which had no well-defined edges, and may be the base of another horticultural feature. Also in the eastern part of the trench, above the darker clay, was a spread of loose yellowish brown clayey sand with c. 20% gravel and crushed CBM inclusions (701). The components of this layer are similar to that expected in the sub-surface of a gravel drive or path, but it was not compacted, and there was no upper surface, so it may just represent made ground over earlier horticultural features, possibly dating to the construction of the new farmhouse in the 1880s. The top layer in the trench was dark brown clayey silt, a topsoil deposit with minor inclusions of glass and brick (700). This was up to 0.56m deep, and is either made ground, or has been subject to improvement through general gardening events. The topsoil was grassed, lying at 70.73mOD in the east of the trench, rising to 70.91m in the west next to an entrance drive from the main road.
- 6.7.3 No finds or features of archaeological significance were present.

6.8 Trench 8

Context	Description	Depth	OD Height of deposit
800	Modern Yard Surface	0.24m	70.70m to 70.95m
801	Made ground	0.22m	70.45m to 70.81m
802	Garden Wall	0.15m	70.51m
808	Soakaway	>0.50m	70.56m
805	Made Ground	0.70m	70.75m to 70.25m
813	Clay	NFE	70.60m to 69.62m

- 6.8.1 Trench 8 was located in the east of the site, in an area characterised by made ground, most recently topped with hard standing. It was oriented north-south (Figure 5). The trench measured 16m by 2.0m, and was effectively a continuation of Trench 5.
- 6.8.2 Naturally-lain yellowish brown clay (813) was the lowest deposit revealed, lying at 70.12mOD in the south, dropping northwards to 69.62m at the north of the trench, a fall of 1.00m, or 1 in 16. There was no subsoil above this. The natural clay slope was cut by a narrow channel 0.20m wide [812], oriented with the slope, containing a pair of parallel ceramic field-drains and backfilled with soft greyish silty clay (811). The cut for the drains and the natural clay was sealed by up to 0.72m depth of made ground formed of layers of silty clay and lenses of gravel, brick rubble and clay, appearing to have been tipped from the north (805). This effectively made the slope considerably shallower, more like a drop of 1 in 30.
- 6.8.3 Two structures were established after the addition of made ground, and both probably date to the late 19th century. One was a soakaway, the other a wall oriented east-west. The soakaway [808] was circular in plan with a diameter of around 2m, and built of red and yellow bricks measuring 230mm by 115mm by 70mm within a cut into the made ground [809]. The upper part of the soakaway was domed, the brickwork bonded with cement mortar. The fill of the soakaway cut was compact dark grey clay, and had coarse components of brick rubble and chalk (806). The top of the soakaway dome had been removed/broken at 70.56mOD, and the soakaway was backfilled with dark brown gritty clay with inclusions of brick rubble (807). The size of the bricks and the use of cement indicates a post 1870 date for the soakaway, and probably relates to the re-organisation of the land when the farmhouse was built. Lying 4m south of the soakaway were the foundation courses of an east-west wall constructed of red and yellow bricks [810]. The bricks measured 230mm by 110mm by 70mm and were bonded with cement. This only survived for two courses, and was 0.48m wide. It probably represents the remains of a garden wall. The wall was truncated to 70.58mOD by an extensive horizontal cut [804], which is probably a demolition event. The cut was filled with another dump, of soft yellowish brown clay (803), which was similar to the natural deposits.
- 6.8.4 A second wall was lay atop the clay, built of red bricks measuring 220mm by 110mm by 70mm, and bonded with cement mortar [802]. Only a single course of the wall remained, insufficient to determine anything of its function. It was built on a southeast-northwest alignment. The single course had a partial layer of slate above, which may have acted as a damp-course for the building it represented.
- 6.8.5 The wall foundation, broken soakaway and made ground were sealed by a layer of loose black silt with a high proportion of ash and clinker (801). This was up to 0.22m deep. Above this was a layer of compact clay and gravel, with tarmac above it (800), forming a yard surface at 70.95mOD in the south, dropping to 70.70mOD in the north.



Plate 5: Trench 8, Looking West

7 Finds

- 7.1 The finds assemblage comprises pottery, building materials, glass and one metal object. All objects have been assessed and reported on, giving a limited view of the site in the late post-medieval and modern periods.
- 7.2 The pottery assemblage comprises three sherds, and all are from common household forms: a plate and two bowls.
- 7.3 The brick and tile from the planting bed in Trench 7 is only broadly datable to the post-medieval period.
- 7.4 An unidentified lump of iron and two pieces of clinker from a planting trench in Trench 5 are of little value.
- 7.5 An assemblage of 11 bottles from made ground in Trench 2 (202) comprise milk bottles from five different companies, a cream bottle, an orange juice bottle, and three unnamed bottles. The bottles all post-date 1920 and two are from the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society Limited.
- 7.6 Due to their very limited research value, it is recommended that no further work be undertaken on these late post-medieval finds.

8 Conclusions and Interpretation

- 8.1 During the course of the archaeological evaluation, a full sequence of deposits from natural geology through to the modern ground surface was recorded.
- 8.2 Naturally lain clay was identified across the evaluated area, and was the earliest horizon revealed. It lay at a high point of 70.70mOD in the southwest corner of site (Trench 5), dropping to the northeast to 66.00m in the 'donkey field'. The area around the house is generally level, although there has been made ground added in the west of the site, where no subsoil remained. In most trenches, subsoil was present, although it frequently contained flecks of building material and small inclusions indicative of general reworking, probably through manuring and agricultural practises. It was notable

- during the evaluation that there were no residual finds such as flints or pottery of Roman or prehistoric date that indicate general occupation in the area prior to the post-medieval period.
- 8.3 Only one trench contained building remains: Trench 8 contained a large 19th century soakaway and the foundation of a contemporary wall. These are likely to represent structures built in support of the farm buildings: the soakaway functions to drain liquid, whereas the wall footing may represent a boundary wall, but it was deeply truncated. The late wall with its slate course in Trench 8 is also a remnant of a farm structure, but appears to have been quite lightweight.
- 8.4 Cut features of agricultural origin were present in three trenches, and all represent planting pits. Those in the front of the house (Trenches 5 and 7) may relate to land use before the current house was built in 1886. The regular planting pits in Trench 1 in the north of the site are more modern, with plastic included in the fill, and represent the former use of the current 'donkey field' as an orchard.
- 8.5 Trenches 3, 4 and 6, excavated as space would allow in areas of saplings and undergrowth between semi-mature trees, revealed a sequence of naturally developed soils, with no evidence that this had ever been occupied apart from a tarmac path recorded in Trench 3, aligned east-west at the rear of the donkey field. This is of low significance.
- 8.6 Trenches 2 and 8 were both dominated by made ground of fairly recent date, allowing a hard-standing to be established on ground that was more level than the original topography. The made ground has slight interest due to its inclusions of local discards, specifically named bottles from dairies, including the Royal Arsenal Cooperative Society which occupied the site from 1920.

9 Further Work and Publication

- 9.1 Given the absence of significant archaeological features, it is recommended that no further archaeological is required on the site prior to development. However, the final decision on any necessity for further works lies with Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 9.2 A short summary of the results will be submitted to the local archaeological round-up.
- 9.3 This report will be added to the grey literature available on the online ADS OASIS project (Appendix C).

10 Archive Deposition

- 10.1 On completion of the project, the developer/landowner will discuss arrangements for the archive to be deposited with the Museum of London. Following completion of the full extent of the fieldwork, the site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with the receiving museum. The excavation archive will be security copied and a copy deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR) before post-excavation analysis begins or as soon after as can be arranged.
- 10.2 The site archive will comprise all artefacts, environmental samples and written and drawn records. It is to be consolidated after completion of the whole project, with records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record. The archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990) and (Brown 2011).

11. Bibliography

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EQUESTRIAN SKILLS CENTRE AT 341, SHOOTERS HILL, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH:
RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Site Location Within London



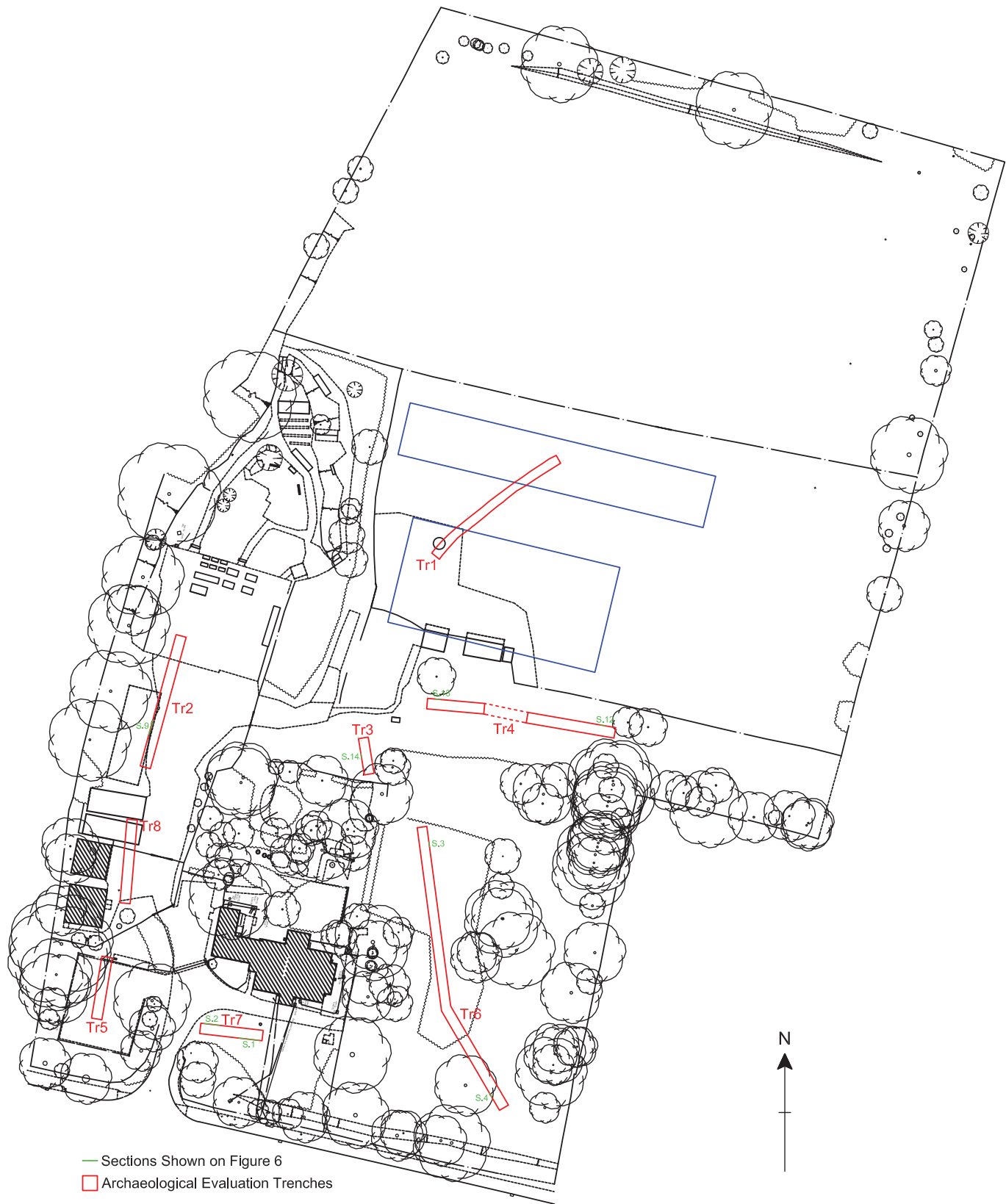
Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2004 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

500m 0 2 km

1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location

EQUESTRIAN SKILLS CENTRE AT 341, SHOOTERS HILL, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH:
RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Based on the Plan Produced by Premier Surveys Ltd

Figure 2: Detailed Site / Trench Location Plan

25m 0 50m

1:1000

EQUESTRIAN SKILLS CENTRE AT 341, SHOOTERS HILL, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH:
RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

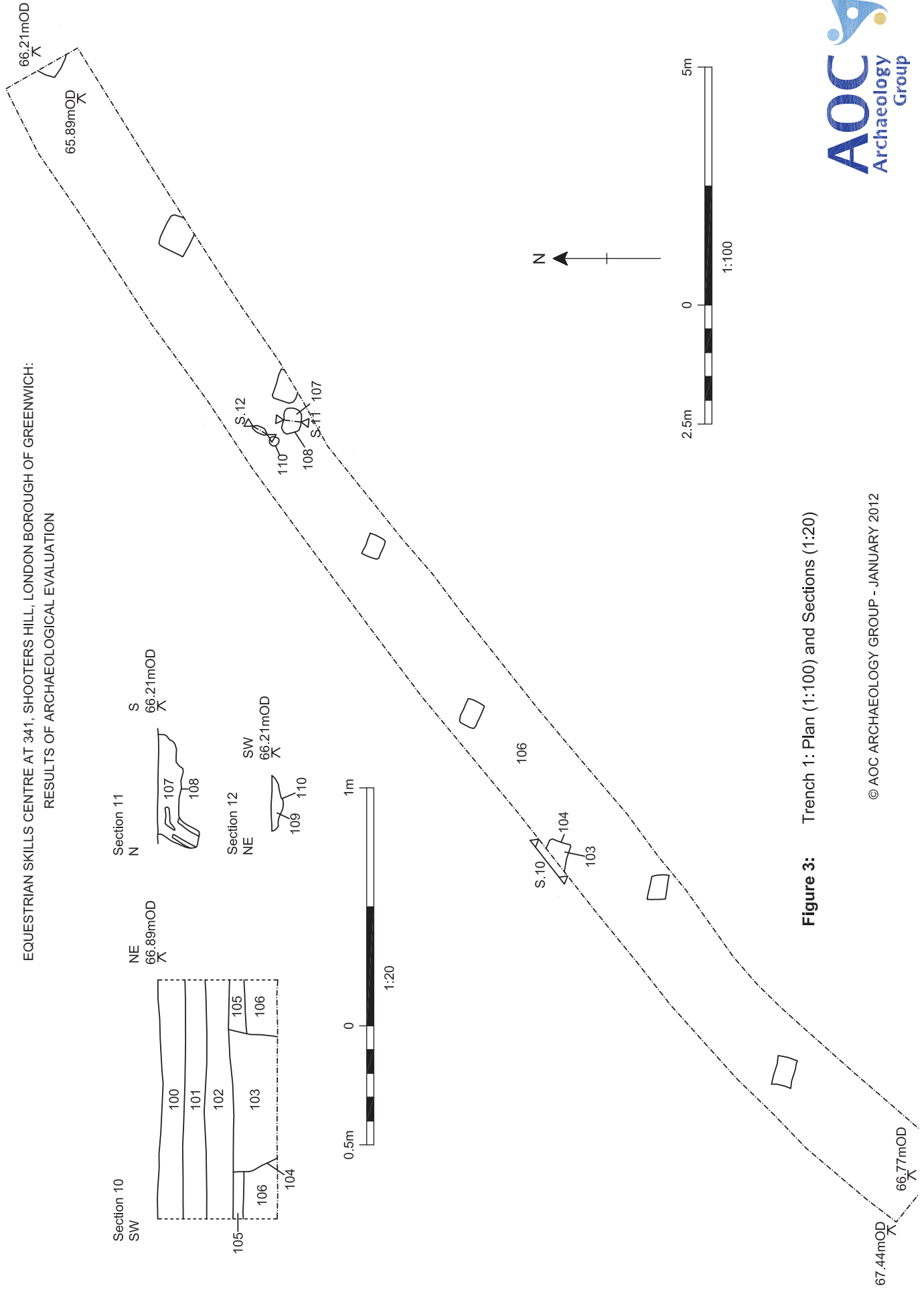


Figure 3: Trench 1: Plan (1:100) and Sections (1:20)

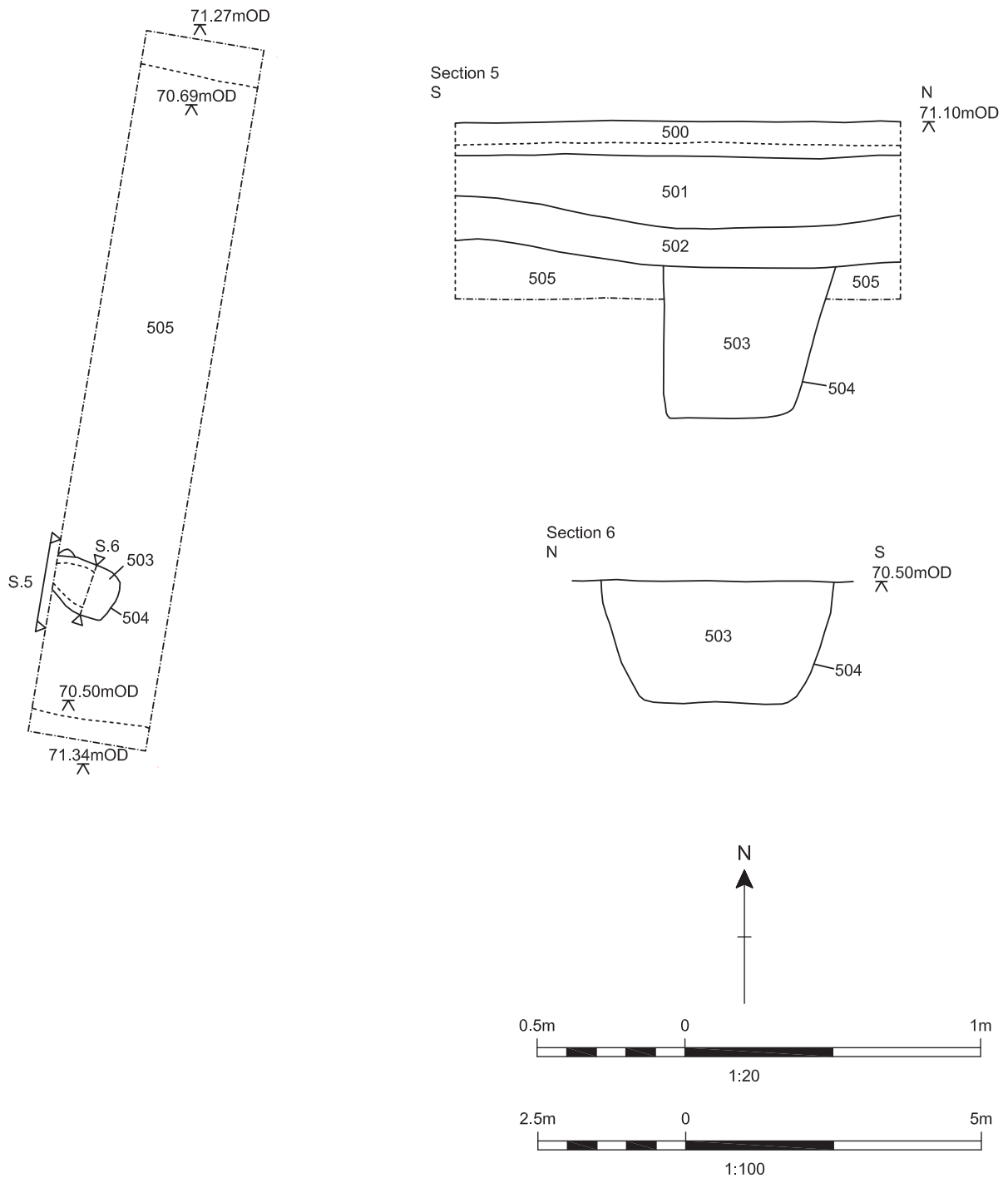


Figure 4: Trench 5: Plan (1:100) and Sections (1:20)

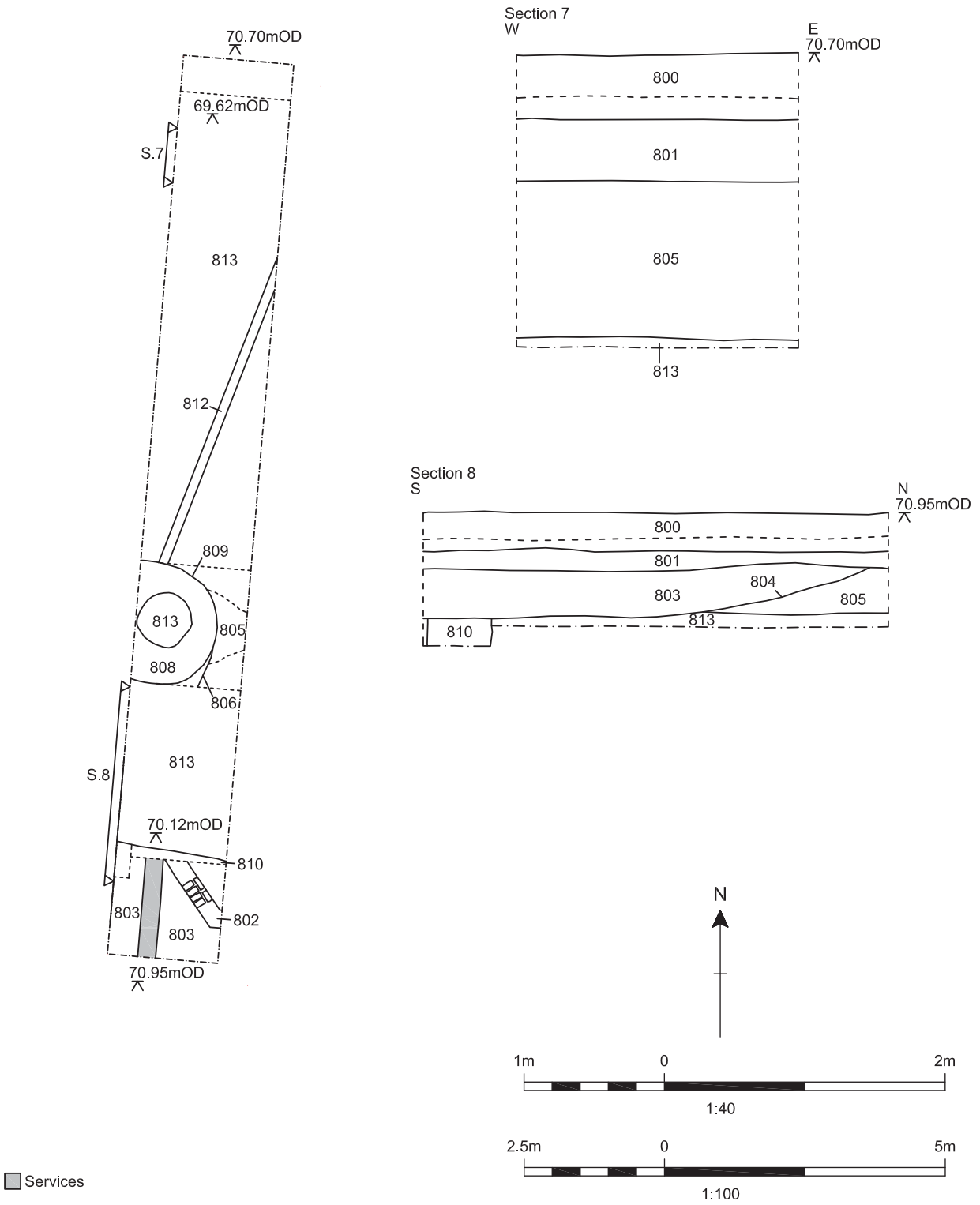


Figure 5: Trench 8: Plan (1:100) and Sections (1:40)

EQUESTRIAN SKILLS CENTRE AT 341, SHOOTERS HILL, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH:
RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

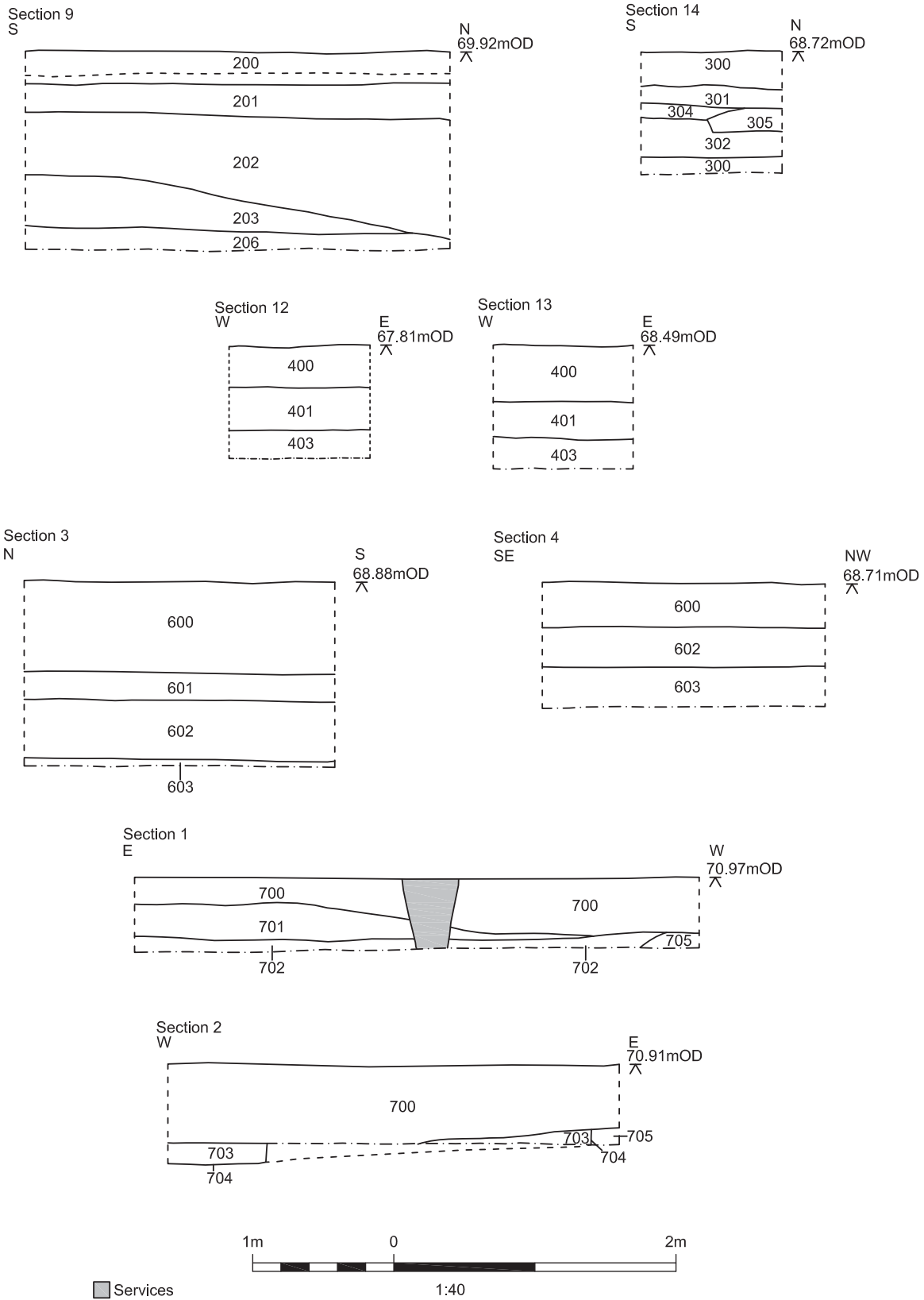


Figure 6: Sections

Appendices

Appendix A - Context Register

Context	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
100	Topsoil	30.0m	1.80m	0.11m	
101	Made ground	30.0m	1.80m	0.09m	
102	Buried topsoil	30.0m	1.80m	0.10m	
103	Fill of [104]	0.80m	0.50m	>0.25m	
104	Planting pit	0.80m	0.50m	>0.25m	
105	Subsoil	20.0m	1.80m	0.05m	
106	Natural clays	30.0m	1.80m	0.10m+	
107	Fill of [108]	0.42m	0.40m	0.16m	
108	Tree bowl/burrow?	0.42m	0.40m	0.16m	
109	Fill of [108]	0.42m	0.40m	0.16m	
110	Undetermined intrusion	0.32m	0.24m	0.06m	
200	Yard surface	26.0m	2.0m	0.24m	
201	Made ground	26.0m	2.0m	0.26m	
202	Made ground	26.0m	2.0m	0.82m	
203	Made ground	6.0m	2.0m	0.36m	
204	Field drain	4.0m+	0.25m	0.10m	
205	Cut for [204]	4.0m+	0.25m	0.10m	
206	Natural clay	26.0m	2.0m	0.20m+	
300	Overburden	7.0m	1.8m	0.24m	
301	Topsoil	7.0m	1.8m	0.14m	
302	Subsoil	7.0m	1.8m	0.28m	
303	Natural clays	7.0m	1.8m	>0.10m	
304	Rubble dump	2.75m	1.8m	0.12m	
305	Tarmac area	3.25m	1.8m	0.14m	
306	Cut containing 305	3.25m	1.8m	0.10m	
400	Topsoil	33.0m	2.0m	0.40m	
401	Subsoil	33.0m	2.0m	0.30m	
402	Disturbed natural	1.40m	0.92m	0.08m	
403	Natural clay	33.0m	2.0m	0.20m+	
500	Tarmac parking surface	12.0m	2.0m	0.12m	
501	Soil horizon	12.0m	2.0m	0.26m	
502	Redeposited natural	12.0m	2.0m	0.14m	
503	Fill of [504]	1.20m	0.80m	0.50m	
504	Uncertain planter cut	1.20m	0.80m	0.50m	
505	Natural clay	12.0m	2.0m	0.20m+	
600	Modern topsoil	56.0m	2.0m	0.32m	
601	Made ground	14.3m	2.0m	0.10m	
602	Soil horizon	56.0m	2.0m	0.21m	
603	Natural clays	56.0m	2.0m	0.10m+	
700	Topsoil	12.0m	2.0m	0.56m	

EQUESTRIAN SKILLS CENTRE AT 341, SHOOTERS HILL, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH:
RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Context	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
701	Gravel layer	3.20m	2.0m	0.26m	
702	Disturbed natural	6.35m	2.0m	0.15m	
703	Fill of [704]	2.75m	1.80m	0.15m	
704	Garden feature cut	2.75m	1.80m	0.15m	
705	Natural clay	12.0m	2.0m	0.10m+	
800	Modern yard surface	16.0m	2.0m	0.24m	
801	Made ground	16.0m	2.0m	0.22m	
802	Garden wall/feature	1.55m	0.30m	0.15m	
803	Made ground	3.18m	2.0m	0.34m	
804	Undefined cut	3.18m	2.0m	0.34m	
805	Made ground	16.0m	2.0m	0.70m	
806	Fill of [809]	2.10m	0.26m	2.0m+	
807	Fill of soakaway [808]	1.0m	1.0m	0.10m+	
808	Soakaway	2.10m	1.15m	0.50m+	
809	Cut for soakaway [808]	2.10m	1.15m	0.40m	
810	Brick wall	2.0m+	0.50m	0.10m	
811	Field drain	5.80m	2.0m	0.10m+	
812	Cut of field drain [811]	5.80m	2.0m	0.10m+	
813	Natural clay	16.0m	2.0m	0.20m+	

Appendix B – Finds Report

by Les Capon

Introduction

The finds assemblage comprises glass, pottery, building materials, two pieces of clinker and part of an iron nail. None of the items are of any great age or interest, but the bottles do provide a general overview of the products produced after Woodlands Farm was purchased by the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society in 1919.

The Glass

An assemblage of eleven bottles was taken from the extensive dump of bottles in made ground within Trench 2 (202). The most common form is the milk bottle, and there are examples in pint and half-pint sizes. Given the known history of the site, the presence of a sequence of milk distributors is not unexpected. The earliest bottles are embossed with the name of the *Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society Ltd*, and also present are bottles from *United Dairies*, *Express Dairies* and *Nestlé*. Two other bottles are identified by printed designs directly onto the glass: “*Express Dairies Fresh Orange Drink*”, and “*Farmer’s Wife Double Devon Cream*”. This last is a Cow and Gate product.

Three other bottles are un-named: two are probably wine bottles, the third is sauce bottle.

The Pottery

Only three sherds of pottery were collected during the evaluation. These comprise a rim sherd from a clear-glazed red ware plate (402, fabric PMR), a rim sherd from a slipware dish (703, fabric METS), and a rim sherd from a blue-glazed porcelain plate (702, fabric ENPO). All these post-date 1800, and are of low significance beyond dating the contexts from where they come.

The Building Material

Three fragments of brick and tile from context (703) are of post-medieval date. They comprise part of a brick, part of peg-tile, and an unidentified piece. There are no full dimensions on any of the fragments. The brick and tile are of low significance.

Other Finds

Two pieces of clinker and a part of an iron nail from a planting trench are probably of post-medieval date.

Discussion

The assemblage of finds is of low archaeological and historical value. The pottery and building materials require no further work and may be discarded. The complete dairy bottles derive from common distributors of dairy products, and, while they provide good evidence for the date of their layer, and give a window into the uses of the site, they are common objects, and require no further research.

Appendix C - OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-112481

Project details

Project name	Equestrian Centre, Woolwich
Short description of the project	Eight-trench evaluation prior to development. No significant archaeology.
Project dates	Start: 19-12-2011 End: 22-12-2011
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated reference codes	project 32020 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated reference codes	project ESC11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	SOAKAWAY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	MILK BOTTLE Modern
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

EQUESTRIAN SKILLS CENTRE AT 341, SHOOTERS HILL, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH:
RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Site location	GREATER LONDON GREENWICH WOOLWICH 341 Shooters Hill
Postcode	DA16 3RP
Study area	1.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 4458 7637 51.4672942379 0.08171718653620 51 28 02 N 000 04 54 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 67.36m Max: 70.70m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	EH GLAAS
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Les Capon
Type of sponsor/funding body	developer

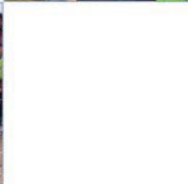
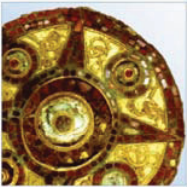
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Archive ID	ESC 11
Physical Contents	'Ceramics', 'Glass'
Physical Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	ESC 11
Digital Contents	'Ceramics', 'Glass'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Images vector', 'Text'

Digital Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	ESC 11
Paper Contents	'Ceramics', 'Glass', 'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey', 'Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Equestrian Skills Centre at 341, Dover Road, Shooters Hill, London Borough of Greenwich: Results of Archaeological Evaluation.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Capon, L.
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	30 pages, 6 figures, 5 plates
Entered by	les capon (les.capon@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on	3 January 2012



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