

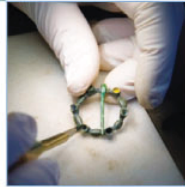
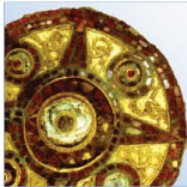
THE ELMGREEN SCHOOL, ELMCOURT ROAD, WEST NORWOOD, LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Planning Application Number: 07/03142/RG3

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 3197 7274

AOC Project no: 30001

Date: April 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

The Elmgreen School, Elmcourt Road, West Norwood, London Borough of Lambeth

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	Alfred McAlpine Project Services
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TQ 3197 7274
AOC Project No:	30001
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Dates of Excavation	28 th January – 4 th February 2008 9 th – 12 th February 2009
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at The Elmgreen School, Elmcourt Road, West Norwood, London Borough of Lambeth in two phases. Phase 1 was undertaken between 28th January and 4th February 2008, and Phase 2 between 9th and 12th February 2009. The work was undertaken on behalf of Alfred McAlpine Project Services. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of eight trenches, within the footprint of the proposed development; five measured 20m x 2m and three measured 15m x 2m. No significant archaeological remains were identified during the evaluation. Natural London Clay was identified at between 48.37mOD and 46.84mOD. Three trenches contained remains of some historical interest. Trench 1 contained 19th century structural remains in the form of a brick culvert and brick wall, possibly a garden feature. Trenches 2 and 6 contained the remains of late 19th century walls. The remaining trenches contained evidence of recent truncation.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a report on an archaeological evaluation undertaken at The Elmgreen School, Elmcourt Road, West Norwood, London Borough of Lambeth (Figure 1). The work was undertaken on behalf of Alfred McAlpine.
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3197 7274 and is within land bounded by Elmcourt Road to the north, residential properties fronting Thurlow Park Road to the east, residential properties fronting Lancaster Road to the south, and residential properties and a warehouse to the west (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The site is irregular in plan and covers an area of approximately 19,680m².

2. Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority (LPA) is the London Borough of Lambeth. Archaeological advice to the LPA is provided by Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), English Heritage.
- 2.2 The proposed development is for the redevelopment of the school as part of Lambeth's Building Schools for the Future programme.
- 2.3 Planning permission to undertake the development was granted under the Town & Country Planning Act (1990) (Application No 07/03142/RG3). GLAAS recommended that an archaeological condition was placed on any planning permission to secure a programme of archaeological work.
- 2.4 The condition stated that:

"No development shall take place until the applicant, their agent, or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority".

Reason: To protect the archaeological/historical interests on the site to ensure compliance with policy 48 of the adopted Unitary Development Plan (2007).
- 2.5 This condition has been required in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE 1990), and was recommended by Diane Walls (GLAAS), English Heritage.
- 2.6 The application site does not fall within a designated area of archaeological importance or within a Conservation Area.
- 2.7 The first stage in the archaeological investigation was the production of a desk-based assessment (MoLAS 2007). Based on the results of that document it was decided that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken. Accordingly, a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced in advance of the site works (AOC 2008).
- 2.8 This document is a report on the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken to identify any archaeological remains that might be threatened by the development.

3. Geology & Topography

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey Map (BGS Sheet 270) indicates that the site is situated upon London Clay.
- 3.2 Geotechnical investigations were conducted on site by Robert Jackson Plc. The trial pit records are included in the desk-based assessment (MoLAS 2007).

4. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 4.1 No previous archaeological investigations have occurred on the site and little in the way of archaeological excavation has occurred in the area. There are a number of entries in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) for archaeological features or chance finds within 1km of the site.
- 4.2 The following information is drawn from the desk-based assessment (MoLAS 2007).

The Prehistoric Period (c. 500,000 BP – AD 43)

- 4.3 The earliest evidence for activity in this area is dated to the lower Palaeolithic in the form of a flake from a flint tool found 900m to the north of the site at Trinity Rise. There is no evidence for Mesolithic activity in the area, probably due to the ephemeral nature of remains.
- 4.4 The site is located 250m north of the ancient river Effra which early people would have been drawn to, to exploit fish and fowl as well as using the river for transport and communication. Some archaeological work has been carried out 800m south west of the site. This has produced undated evidence of probable prehistoric activity near the Effra in the form of burnt flint in soil deposited by the river, and a struck flint. At the former Tulse Hill School, 1.2km from the site, a flint assemblage and a piece of prehistoric flint was found indicating that the area was not totally devoid of activity.

The Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)

- 4.5 The site is located 2km east of the Roman London to Brighton Road, which may have had small settlements running alongside it. Although there is no evidence for activity in the immediate area there was a Roman dwelling found 1.2km north of the site at Tulse Hill School with roof and wall tile and part of a hypocaust underfloor heating system, in addition to 3rd - 4th century AD pottery.

Anglo-Saxon (c. 451-1065)

- 4.6 There is no evidence for activity of the early medieval period in the area of the site, but many place names in the borough of Lambeth have a Saxon origin, namely Streatham, Balham, Clapham, Kennington and Lambeth.
- 4.7 Lambeth appears in the Domesday book (1086) as *Lachei* and was owned by Lambeth Church and Count Robert of Mortain. The site at this time was probably part of the large Lambeth Manor, owned by the church and stretching from the Thames to Norwood.
- 4.8 Excavations at the former Tulse Hill School indicate that the Roman population was replaced by early medieval settlement. Some of London's earliest medieval remains were found here, including two houses known as sunken feature buildings dated 450-600 AD.

Medieval (c. 1066 – 1485)

- 4.9 The general area surrounding the site is first mentioned in documentary sources in 1290 when it was located in the small Manor of Levehurst, and owned by Pinus Bernardi of Florence. This lay between the Manor of Leigh, the detached portion of Streatham to the north and the Archbishop of Canterbury's extensive woodland of Norwood in Lambeth Manor to the south. In 1471 the manor was held by Ralph Leigh but the exact extent of the manor has always been uncertain.
- 4.10 A map of the manor dated 1563 shows the manor comprising land on both sides of Deane Green Lane (now Norwood Road). The site of the manor house is shown clearly marked in a field on the opposite (western) side of the road, c 300m south-west of the site. This is almost certainly the manor mentioned in 1471. Beyond the manor of Levehurst there were other secondary settlements. The map shows a small group of houses near Hall Lane (Croxted Lane), and the historic houses of Hilles, Caverles and Hall Place are located 750m east of the site.

Post-Medieval (c. 1485 – modern)

- 4.11 In 1543 Sir John Leigh tried to convey the manor of Levehurst along with other land to King Henry VIII. This resulted in a dispute as to whether he actually owned the land, and although the land remained in the hands of the crown its status remained obscure.
- 4.12 In 1566 Queen Elizabeth I granted Levehurst (which would have included the site) to Richard Barnard and Robert Taylor and from them it passed through a number of individuals detailed in the survey of London.
- 4.13 By the late 18th century Levehurst Manor was acquired by Edward (later Lord) Thurlow and formed part of his vast estate which included parts of Lambeth and Streatham. Lord Thurlow was one of the most eminent lawyers of the time and later became Lord Chancellor (1778-92). In 1793 Thurlow commissioned the construction of a mansion immediately west of the site, but it was demolished soon after completion when Thurlow had a dispute with his builder over costs.
- 4.14 Thurlow's death in 1806 enabled the suburban development of West Norwood. Vast tracts of land he previously owned passed to trustee's who, with an act of parliament, leased the land out. The 1806 enclosure map shows the area in some detail, although it is difficult to place the site accurately on this map. Using Elmcourt Road as a guide, the site appears to lie within Lord Thurlow's estate; the mansion house lies immediately to the east and partly within the north-eastern part of the site. The northern half of the site contains a number of large buildings which are probably stable blocks and outbuildings, screened from the south by a row of trees. The southern part of the site appears to be in open fields.
- 4.15 The former lands of Levehurst manor were sold in 1825; a new church was built 600m to the south of the site in anticipation of a growing population. Stanford's map of 1862 shows that the western part of the site was located within the south eastern corner of Thurlow Lodge, the remainder of the site straddled two rectangular fields.
- 4.16 A later OS map (1894-6) shows three residential properties in the northern part of the site, two large detached villas and a semi detached building. The villa in the north east corner of the site shows a small circular structure which is probably the folly still in extant. The southern part of the site has not changed. By 1916 the Elmcourt residential School for Blind Girls had been built at the west of the site.

- 4.17 The London County Council bomb damage map shows that the site was bombed during WWII resulting in the two villas to the north of the site being destroyed, as well as the School for Blind Girls to the west. By 1952 the site had been cleared and is shown as open fields again.

5. Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the evaluation, as detailed in the WSI (AOC 2008), were:
- 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 GLAAS to make an informed decision on the status of the archaeology condition and any requirement for further mitigation work.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
- 5.2 The specific aims of the evaluation were:
- To determine the presence of any remains of Prehistoric date on site.
 - To determine the presence of any remains of Roman date on site.
 - Assess the potential of the site to inform on the medieval development and chronology of Lambeth.
 - Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phases of late post-medieval and modern buildings on the site.
- 5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of five 20m x 2m trenches and three measuring 15m x 2m (Figure 2). Three of the 20m x 2m trenches had to be reduced to 15m x 2m due to on-site constraints.
- 6.2 Five trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8) were excavated in 2008 (Phase 1) and three (Trenches 5, 6 and 7) were excavated in 2009 (Phase 2).
- 6.3 Prior to the commencement of any excavation the entire site was visually inspected and all trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to check for live services.
- 6.4 All overburden was removed down to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon using a JCB with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.

- 6.5 All machining was carried out under direct control of an experienced archaeologist. The site and spoil heaps were scanned visually for finds.
- 6.6 All excavation was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appeared to be demonstrably worthy of preservation in situ.
- 6.7 After recording, the trenches were backfilled with excavated material.
- 6.8 A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was set up on site, transferred from a Bench Mark on the south-west corner of the house at 29 Elmcourt Road. This BM had a value of 47.11mOD.
- 6.9 All of the work was carried out in line with Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage June 1998); IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA October 1995) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2008).
- 6.10 A unique site code was obtained from the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC), Museum of London, prior to the commencement of the fieldwork (**EMG 08**).

7. Results

- 7.1 Natural London Clay was identified at between 48.37mOD and 46.84mOD. Three trenches contained remains of late post-medieval (19th century) date. Trenches 1, 2 and 6 contained post-medieval structural remains; a brick culvert and round brick wall were identified in Trench 1, and brick walls in Trenches 2 and 6. The remaining trenches contained evidence of recent truncation.

Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Surface of Trench = 49.47m to 49.17m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)

Level (OD)	Thickness	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
49.47m	0.30m	(1/001)	Dark grey brown silt. Topsoil.
49.35m	0.20m	(1/002)	Dark brown sandy deposit. Subsoil.
49.22m	0.10m	(1/003)	Hard black layer of ash, tar and coal. Hardcore pack.
49.12m	0.10m	(1/004)	Hard yellow construction sand.
49.02	0.15m	(1/007)	Hard brick dust. Hardcore pack.
48.87m	0.15m	(1/008)	Hard black layer of ash, tar and coal. Hardcore pack.
49.05-48.65m	0.40m	(1/009)	Firm dark brown sandy silt with and pottery. Levelling dump.
49.07-48.37m	0.70m	(1/010)	Firm brown silty clay with frequent CBM. Redeposited Natural.
48.24m (NFE)	NFE	(1/013)	Firm and sticky light brown clay. Natural deposit.

NFE – Not fully excavated.

- 7.2 Trench 1 was located to the north of the site. It measured 20m x 2m at base.
- 7.3 Naturally deposited clay (1/013) was observed at 48.24m OD. At the east end of the trench this was overlain by redeposited natural (1/010). Cutting the natural clay was a large feature [1/011] which measured 18m+ and extended beyond the limits of the trench. This cut was backfilled with three different fills. The primary fill (1/016) was a deposit of greyish brown clay with a large quantity of ceramic building material (CBM). The secondary fill (1/015) was firm brown clay mixed with white chalky sandstone. The tertiary fill (1/012) was firm light brown sandy silt with inclusions of frequent moderately angular pebbles and frequent domestic Victorian pot-sherds, CBM and glass. A decorative clay tobacco pipe bowl <1> depicting a horse beneath a crescent moon was found in also found in the fill. Pit feature [1/011] may be related to the 'old gravel pit' shown on the 1870 Ordnance Map of the area.
- 7.4 Two small brick structures, [1/005] and [1/006], cut deposit (1/010). Structure [1/005] was the remains of a red stock brick culvert and [1/006] was a curvilinear wall, possibly part of a garden structure. The wall was backfilled with a layer of very firm dark grey-brown silty clay (1/014). These brick structures are likely to be related to one of the villas recorded in the northern area of the site for the first time in the Ordnance Survey 2nd map of 1894-96 when the 'old gravel pit' was backfilled.

- 7.5 Overlying backfill (1/009) was a 0.40m thick leveling dump. This was overlain by sequential layers of modern hardcore packing and construction material (1/008, 1/007, 1/004, 1/003) followed by subsoil (1/002) and topsoil (1/001). The subsoil contained pottery of late post-medieval date, 19th century glass and a clay tobacco pipe stem.

- 7.6 No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Surface of Trench = 48.97m to 48.76m AOD

Level (OD)	Thickness	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
48.97m	0.40m	(2/001)	Dark grey-brown silty sand. Topsoil
48.57m	1.6m	(2/002)	Rubble in light grey-brown sand. Demolition waste. Levelling dump.
46.99m	0.10m+ NFE	(2/003)	Natural deposit.

NFE – Not fully excavated.

- 7.7 Trench 2 was located to the north of the site. Due to site restrictions the trench was 5m shorter than originally planned and therefore measured 15m x 2m at base.
- 7.8 Natural London Clay (2/003) was recorded at a height of 46.99mOD in the south end of Trench 2. Cutting into the natural deposit was a northwest-southeast brick wall measuring 3.40m x 0.40m x 0.80m deep [2/004]. This comprised dark-purple bricks with yellow sandy mortar. Concrete slabs were found on both sides of the wall. Wall [2/004] may be part of one of the villas marked in the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map of 1894-96. Both the wall and natural clay were overlain by a 1.6m thick layer of rubble and demolition waste (2/002). Trench 2 was sealed by (2/001); a 0.40m thick topsoil.

- 7.9 No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 2.

Trench 3 (Figure 6)

Surface of Trench = 47.34m to 47.28m AOD

Level (OD)	Thickness	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
47.28m	0.05m	(3/001)	Tarmac.
47.23m	0.40m	(3/002)	Hard dark brown-black sand with bricks and rubble. Hardcore.
46.84	0.05m+ NFE	(3/003)	Firm and sticky yellow-brown clay. Natural London Clay.

NFE – Not fully excavated.

- 7.10 Trench 3 was located near the southwest corner of the Phase 1 area. Due to site restrictions the trench was 5m shorter than originally planned and therefore measured 15m x 2m at base.
- 7.11 Natural London Clay (3/003) was observed at 46.84m OD. It was overlaid by a 0.40m thick hardcore layer (3/002) followed by tarmac (1/001).
- 7.12 No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 3.

Trench 4 (Figure 6)

Surface of Trench = 48.98m to 49.32m AOD

Level (OD)	Thickness	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
49.66m	0.30m	(4/001)	Soft dark brown silty sand. Topsoil.
49.36m	0.40m	(4/002)	Firm greenish brown clay with frequent CBM. Re-deposited clay. Levelling deposit.
48.96m	0.45m	(4/003)	Hard dark brown silty clay. Frequent Pottery CBM, occasional glass. Levelling deposit – Made ground.
48.51m	0.15m-0.55m	(4/004)	Hard black and red layer, tar and brick dust. Occasional degraded CBM. Hardcore? Made ground.
47.95m	NFE	(4/005)	Firm dark greenish-brown silty clay. Natural deposit.

NFE – Not fully excavated.

- 7.13 Trench 4 was located to the southwest of the existing school, to the east of Trench 1. It measured 25m x 2m at base.
- 7.14 Natural clay (4/005) was recorded at a height of 46.99m OD in the south of Trench 4, at 47.95m in the middle of the trench and at 47.55mOD in the north due to the natural slope of the area. The natural deposit was overlaid by three dump layers (4/004), (4/003) and (4/002) which seemed to have been deposited on site to raise the ground level, possibly as part of a landscaping scheme. Dump (4/003) contained pottery dating to the 19th century, CBM, a small wine bottle and a piece of artificial stone, used as a cheap ornamentation within a building, which is probable late 18th century date (Appendix B). These layers were sealed by a 0.30m thick deposit of topsoil (4/001).
- 7.15 No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 4.

Trench 5 (Figure 6)

Surface of Trench = 47.29m to 46.80m AOD

Level (OD)	Thickness	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
46.80m	0.05m	(5/001)	Tarmac ground slab.
46.75m	0.20m	(5/002)	Hardcore made ground.
46.50m	0.80m	(5/003)	Blue/green silty clay. Late 19 th /20 th century made ground.
45.70m	0.40m+	(5/004)	Natural orange/yellow clay.

- 7.16 Trench 5 was located to the south of the site, aligned northwest – southeast, and measured 20m x 2m at base.
- 7.17 Natural clay (5/004) was overlain by a 0.80m thick deposit of made ground (5/003). This was in turn overlaid by a deposit of hardcore leveling material (5/002) for the existing tarmac ground slab (5/001).
- 7.18 No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 5.

Trench 6 (Figure 5)

Surface of Trench = 46.70m to 46.15m AOD

Level (OD)	Thickness	Context Number	Description
46.15m	0.05m	(6/001)	Dark loamy topsoil.
46.10m	0.15m	(6/002)	Loosely compacted dark brown sandy silt. Made ground
45.95m	0.48m	(6/003)	Moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt. Made ground.
45.48m	0.40m	(6/004)	Moderately compacted mid brown sandy clay with late 19 th century CBM inclusions. Made ground.
45.08m	0.20m+	(6/005)	Firmly compacted orange/brown silty clay.

- 7.19 Trench 6 was located in the southernmost part of the site, aligned roughly east-west, and measured 20m x 2m at base.
- 7.20 Natural clay (6/005) was overlain by a 0.40m thick layer of made ground (6/004). A linear cut [6/007] aligned north-south truncated made ground (6/004) at the east end of the trench. The cut was a foundation trench for Victorian wall [6/006]. The wall foundation comprised red and yellow stock bricks on stretcher bonded with yellow/grey mortar and is probably the remains of a domestic building. Cut [6/007] was infilled with a dark brown sandy silt (6/008).
- 7.21 A second Victorian wall [6/009] of the same form, materials and alignment as [6/006] was identified 5m from the east of the trench and is likely to be part of the same structure. It was cut along its east side by a 0.05m wide linear feature [6/011] containing a 20th century ceramic drain (6/010). The cut was filled with a dark brown sand with frequent gravel inclusions and 18th to 19th century pottery (6/012).
- 7.22 Sealing the above features were two layers of made ground (6/003) and (6/002), in turn sealed by a dark loamy topsoil (6/001).
- 7.23 No significant archaeological features were identified in Trench 6.

Trench 7 (Figure 6)

Surface of Trench = 47.59m to 46.93m AOD

Level (OD)	Thickness	Context Number	Description
47.59m	0.18m	(7/001)	Soft dark brown silty sand. Topsoil.
47.41m	0.50m	(7/002)	Moderately compacted mid brown sandy clay with moderate CMB inclusions. Made ground
46.91m	0.75m	(7/003)	Firmly compacted mid orange/brown silty clay with frequent CBM inclusions. Made ground.
46.16m	0.16m+	(7/004)	Firmly compacted natural yellow/orange clay.

- 7.24 Trench 7 was located in the southeast corner of the site, aligned northeast-southwest, and measured 20m x 2m at base.
- 7.25 Natural clay (7/004) was overlain by two layers of made ground (7/003) and (7/002), in turn sealed by a layer of topsoil (7/001). Made ground (7/003) contained five fragments of undated peg tile and a single sherd of medieval pottery. As no other finds of medieval date were present, this is likely to be residual, or may have been imported to the site with the made ground.
- 7.26 No significant archaeological remains were identified in Trench 7.

Trench 8

Surface of Trench = 49.07m to 48.85m AOD

Level (OD)	Thickness	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
48.85m	0.10m	(8/001)	Soft dark brown silty sand. Topsoil.
48.75m	0.30-0.40m	(8/002)	Moderately compact dark greyish-brown silt occasional pot and CBM. Made ground.
48.37	NFE	(8/008)	Naturally deposited London Clay.

NFE – Not fully excavated.

- 7.27 Trench 8 was located at the east corner of the Phase 1 area. Due to site restrictions the trench was 5m shorter than originally planned and therefore measured 15m x 2m at base.
- 7.28 Natural London Clay (8/008) was encountered at 48.37m OD. Cutting into the natural deposit were two inter-cutting modern feature [8/006] and [8/004] at the east end of Trench 8 and a modern concrete manhole (8/007) at the west end. [8/006] was a cut (only recorded in section) with irregularly sloping sides, possibly a tree bore, backfilled by firm dark brown sandy silt (8/005) with occasional CBM and modern material inclusions. [8/004], a modern feature, cut [8/006] and was backfilled by yellow builders' sand (8/003). At the west end of the trench a rectangular concrete feature (8/007) cut into the natural deposit. These features were all sealed by a 0.30-0.40m thick subsoil (8/002) and 0.10m thick topsoil (8/001). No elements of historical interest were identified in Trench 8.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1 The evaluation revealed a series of post-medieval features, these included brick structures located to the north of the site. These structures, dated by their construction materials and techniques to the late Victorian period, probably belonged to two detached villas present in the area at the end of the 19th century and destroyed during WWII bombing. This interpretation is supported by the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map of 1894-96. No archaeological remains predating the 19th century were identified.
- 8.2 Given the limited scale of the archaeological remains it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required to satisfy the archaeological planning condition. However, the final decision regarding any further work will rest with Mark Stevenson (GLAAS), English Heritage.
- 8.3 Publication of the results will be through the ADS OASIS form (Appendix C) with a short summary submitted to the *London Archaeologist* round-up 2009.

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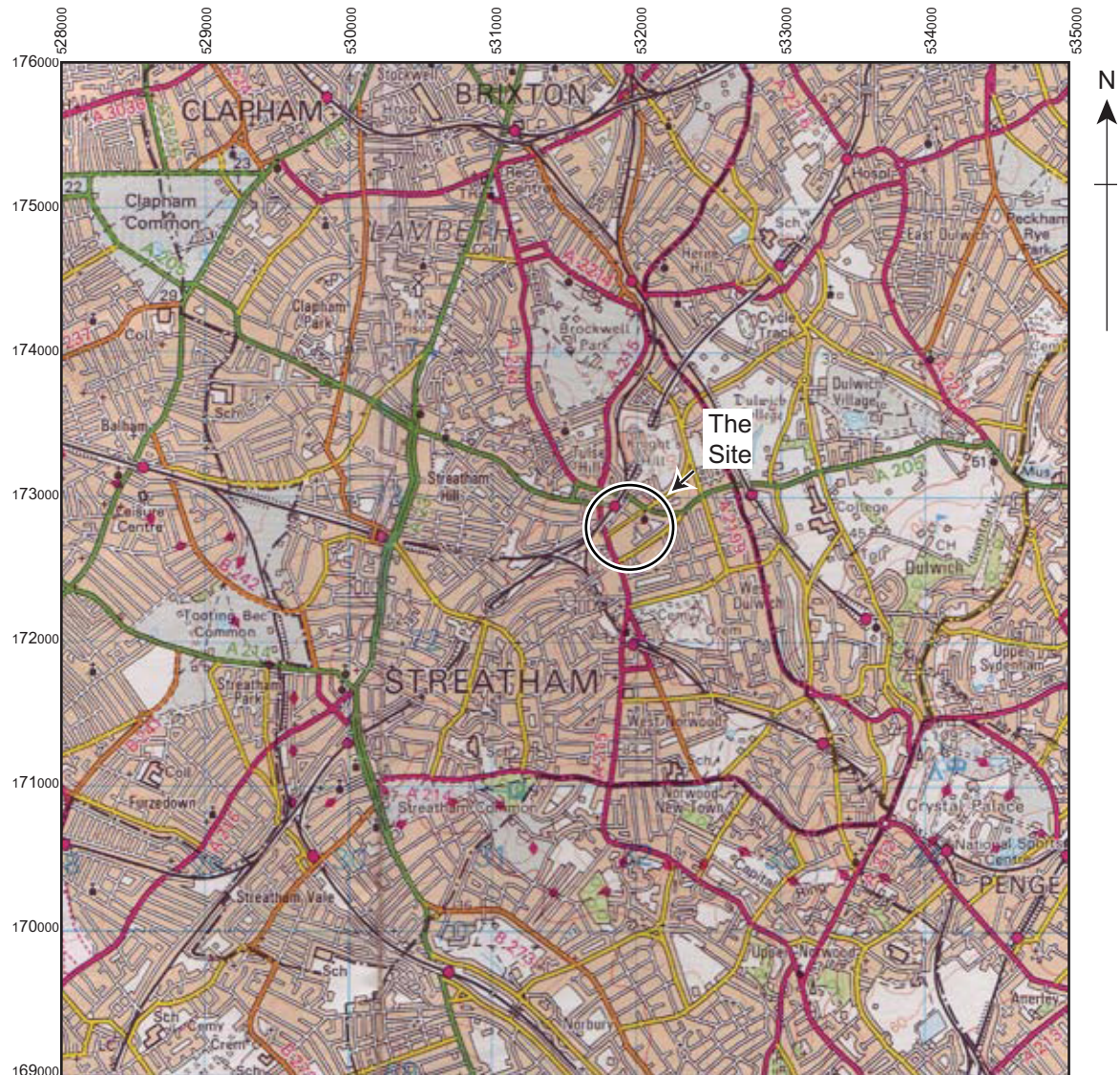
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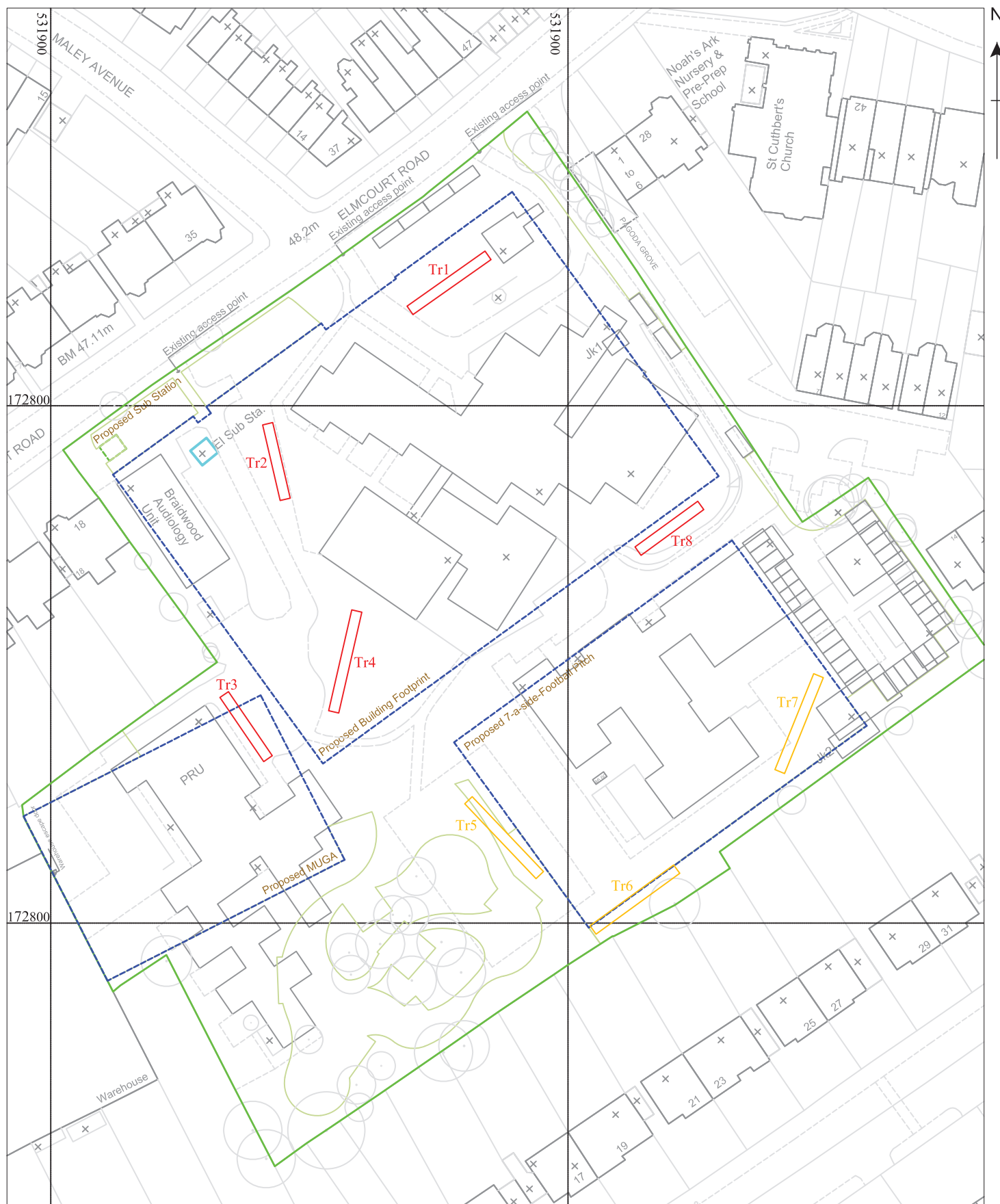
THE ELMGREEN SCHOOL, ELMCOURT ROAD, WEST NORWOOD, LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT



500m 0 2 km
1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location

THE ELMGREEN SCHOOL, ELMCOURT ROAD, WEST NORWOOD, LONDON BOROUGH OF
LAMBETH: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT



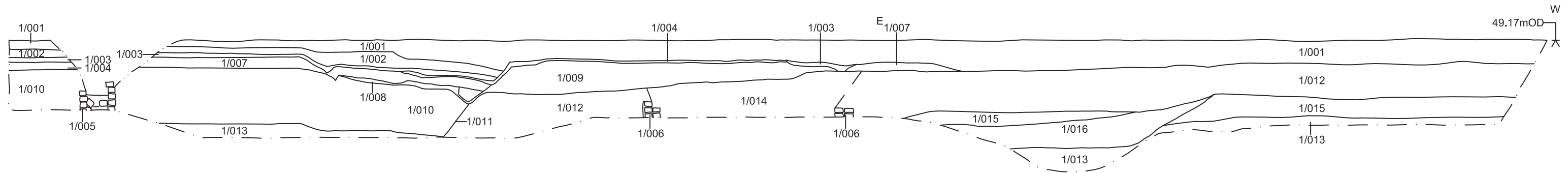
Based on the Plans Produced by Scott Brownrigg

- Site Outline
- Proposed Areas of Construction
- Evaluation Trench - 2008
- Evaluation Trench - 2009

25m 0 50m
1:1000

Figure 2: Detailed Site/Trench Location Plan

Trench 1: Section



Trench 1: Plan

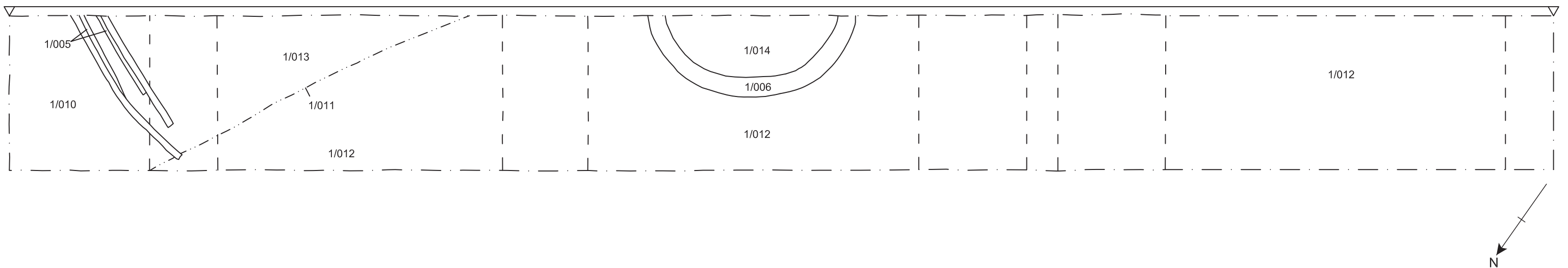


Figure 3: Trench 1: Plan & Section (1:80)

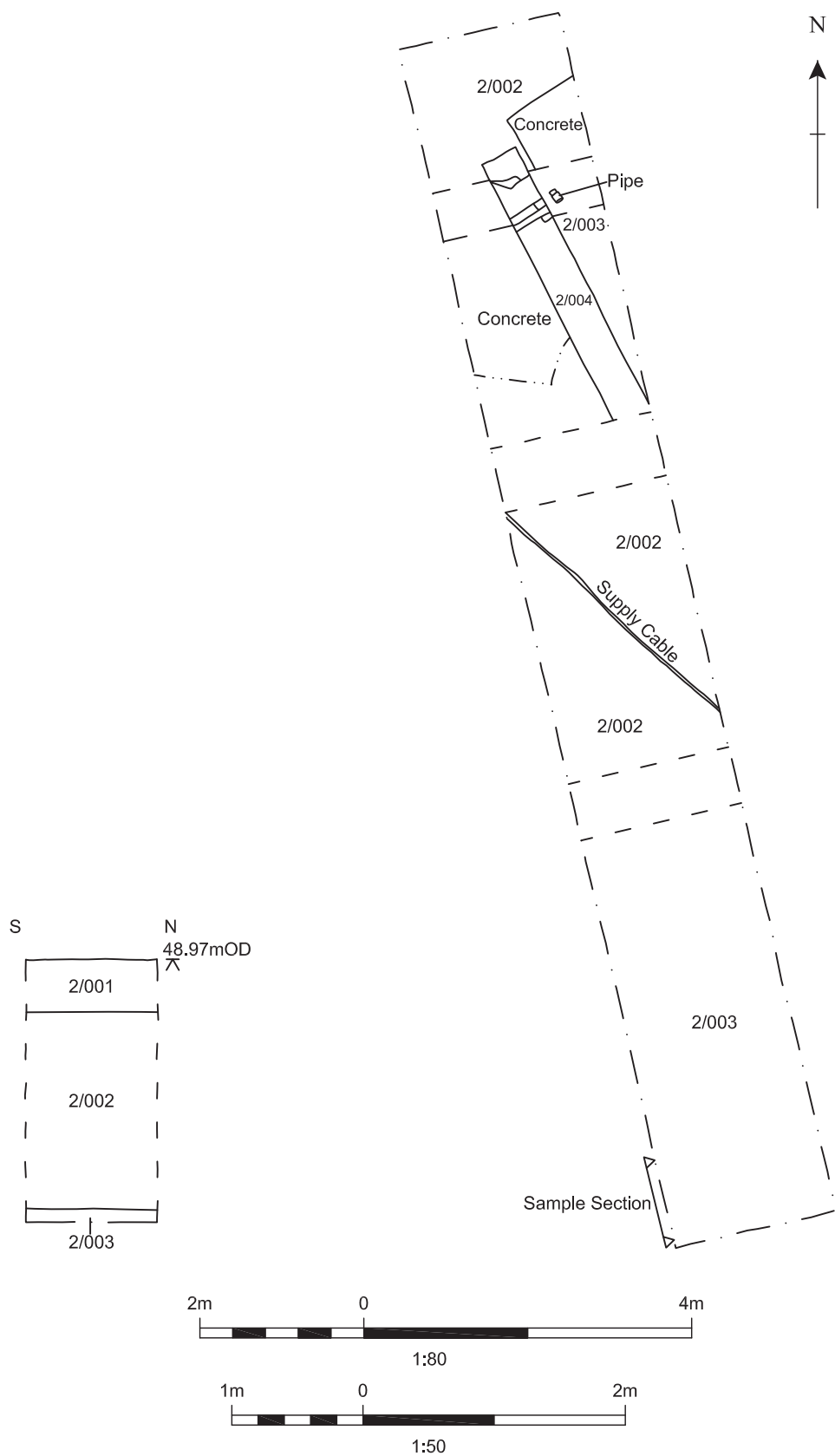


Figure 4: Trench 2: Plan (1:80) & Section (1:50)

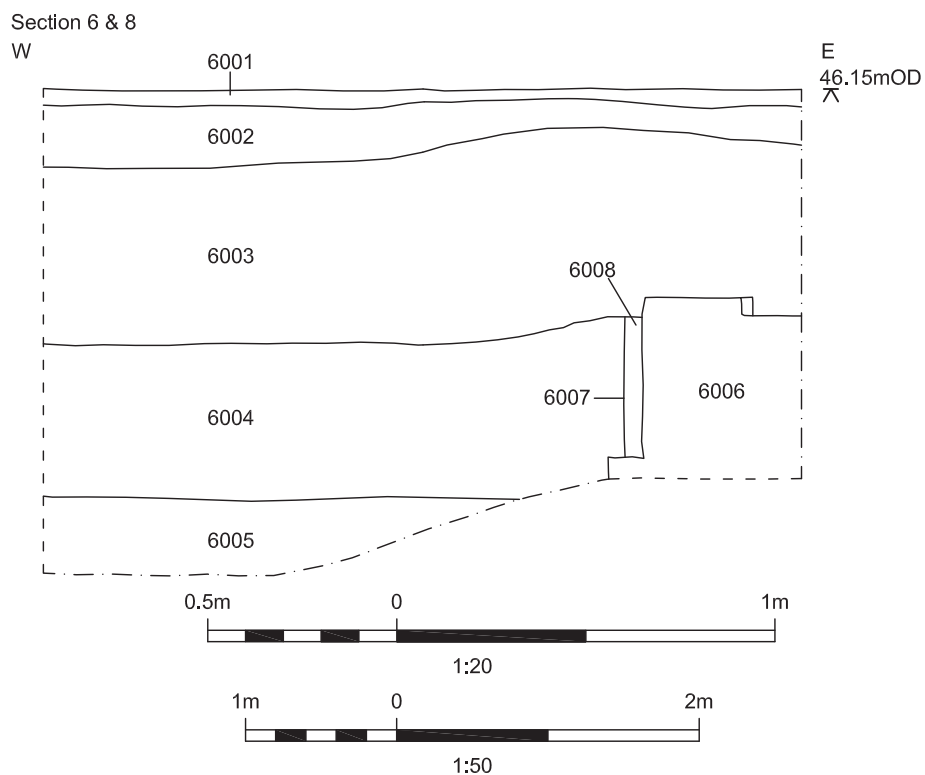
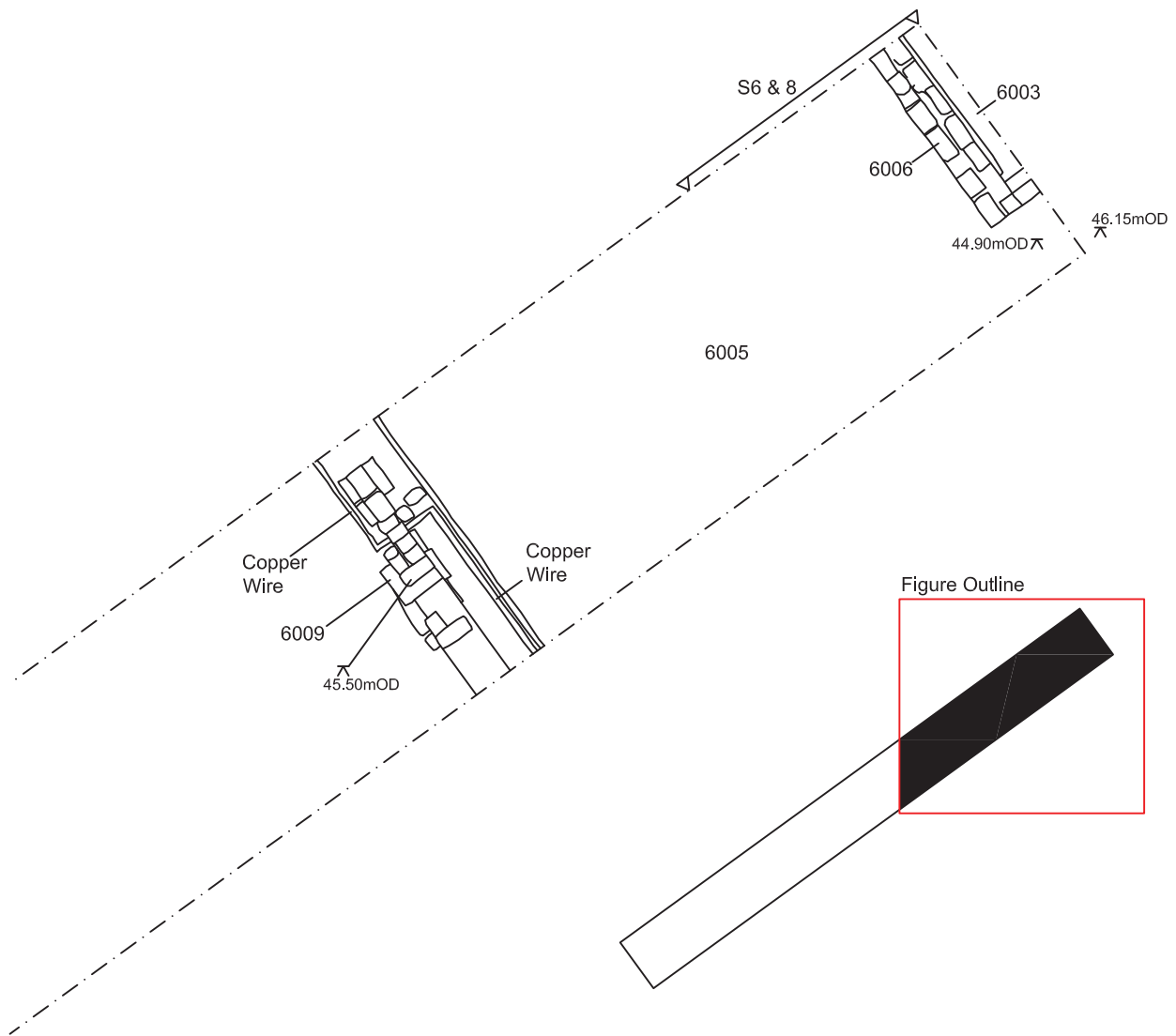


Figure 5: Trench 6: Plan (1:50) & Section (1:20)

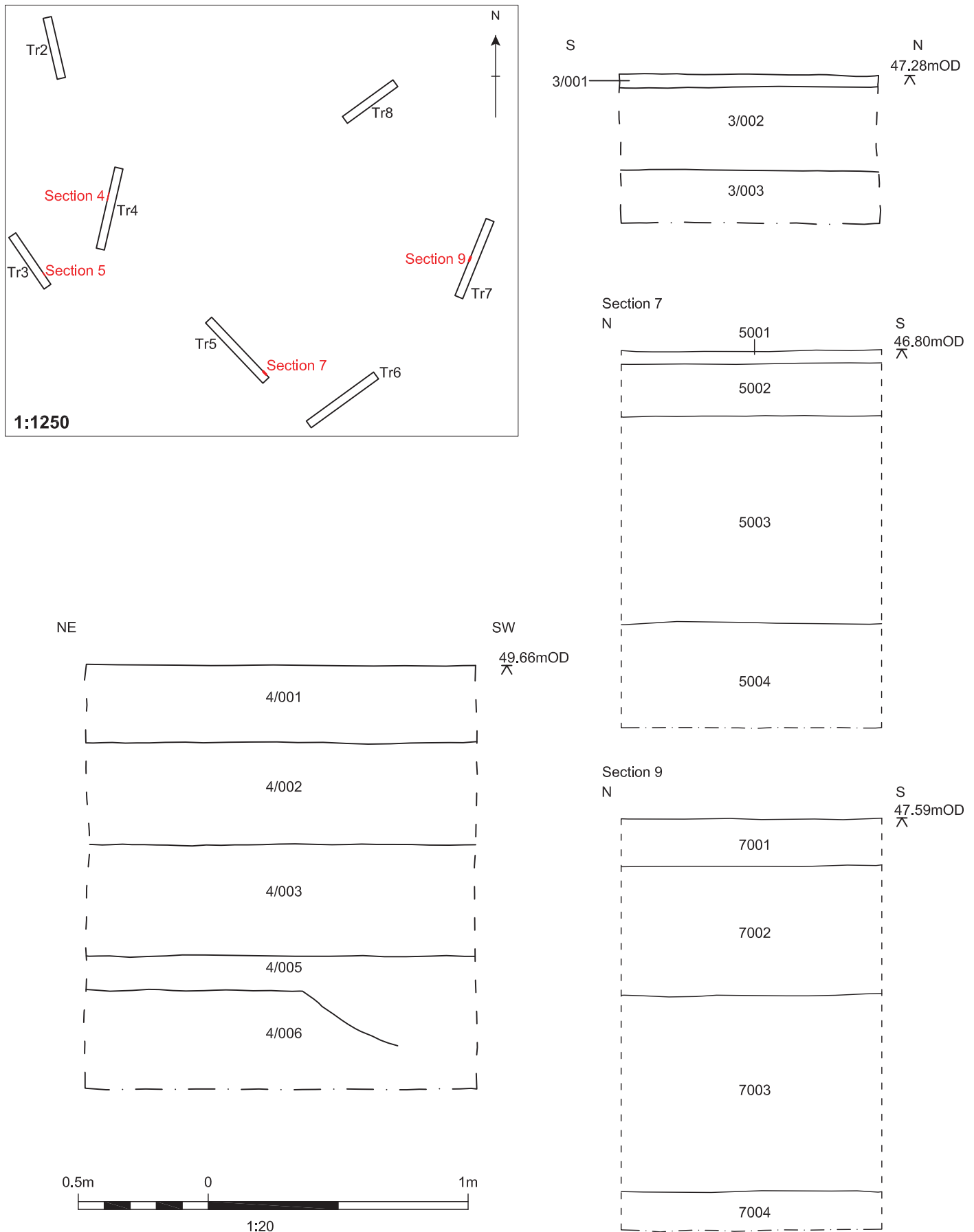


Figure 6: Trench 3, 4, 5 & 7: Sample Sections



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1/001	Topsoil layer	20m	2m	0.30m
1/002	Subsoil-made ground	6m	2m	0.20m
1/003	Hardcore pack	6m	2m	0.10m
1/004	Hardcore pack	6m	2m	0.10m
1/005	Brick culvert	2m	0.40m	0.40m
1/006	Brick garden wall	2.70m	1m	0.20m
1/007	Hardcore pack	6m	2m	0.15m
1/008	Hardcore pack	6m	2m	0.15m
1/009	Levelling layer	4m	2m	0.40m
1/010	Redeposited natural	6m	2m	0.70m
1/011	Large truncation (old gravel pit?)	18m	2m	
1/012	Tertiary fill of 1/011	18m	2m	0.40m
1/013	Natural clay deposit	2m	1.5m	NFE
1/014	Fill of 1/006	2.70m	1m	0.40m
1/015	Secondary fill of 1/011	NFE	2m	0.35m
1/016	Primary fill of 1/011	NFE	2m	0.40m
2/001	Topsoil layer	15m	2m	0.40m
2/002	Levelling ground	15m	2m	1.6m
2/003	Natural clay deposit	5m	2m	NFE
2/004	Brick wall	3.40m	0.40m	0.80m
3/001	Tarmac	15m	2m	0.05m
3/002	Hardcore	15m	2m	0.40m
3/003	Natural clay	15m	2m	NFE
4/001	Topsoil layer	20m	2m	0.30m
4/002	Levelling ground	20m	2m	0.40m
4/003	Levelling ground	20m	2m	0.45m
4/004	Levelling ground	20m	2m	0.55m
4/005	Natural clay deposit	20m	2m	NFE
5001	Tarmac	20.0m	2.0m	50mm
5002	Hardcore	20.0m	2.0m	0.20m
5003	Redeposited natural	20.0m	2.0m	0.80m
5004	Natural clay	20.0m	2.0m	0.40m
6001	Topsoil layer	20.0m	2.0m	
6002	Subsoil-made ground	20.0m	2.0m	
6003	Made ground	20.0m	2.0m	
6004	Redeposited natural	20.0m	2.0m	
6005	Natural	20.0m	2.0m	
6006	Wall	1.46m	0.22m	0.48m
6007	Cut for wall			0.48m
6008	Fill of 6007			
6009	Wall	1.38m	0.22m	0.23m
6010	Drain	2.20m		0.50m
6011	Cut for drain	2.20m		0.50m
6012	Fill for drain cut	2.20m		0.50m
7001	Topsoil layer	20.0m	2.0m	0.18m
7002	Subsoil-made ground	20.0m	2.0m	0.50m
7003	Redeposited natural	20.0m	2.0m	0.75m
7004	Natural	20.0m	2.0m	0.15m
8/001	Topsoil layer	15m	2m	0.10m
8/002	Made ground-subsoil	15m	2m	0.40m

8/003	Construction sand – Fill of 8/004	2.35m	2m	0.30m
8/004	Modern truncation	2.35m	2m	0.30m
8/005	Fill of 8/006	3.90m	2m	0.45
8/006	Irregular shape cut	3.90m	2m	0.45m
8/007	Modern concrete service manhole.	3.40m	1.20m	NFE
8/008	Natural clay deposit	15m	2m	NFE

Appendix B – Specialist Finds Assessment

Assessment of the Finds by Paul Fitz and Les Capon, AOC Archaeology Group

Introduction

The majority of finds from the site are ceramic and mostly date to the 19th century and early 20th century. One find is accessioned; a decorated tobacco pipe bowl, and one pot sherd is medieval in date.

The Pottery

Table 1. The Pottery

Context	Type/Description	No. Sherds	Date	Complete
1/002	Flower pot	2	Post-medieval	N
	Post-medieval redware	21		N
	Cane ware	1	1770-1900	N
	Pearlware	1	1770-1850	N
	Stoneware –uncertain origin	1		N
1/012	Paste/Cream pot	1	1800-1900+	Y
	Paste pot	1	1800-1900+	Y
	Brown transfer printed ware	1	1810-1900+	N
	Flower pot	3	Post-medieval	N
	English stoneware	2		N
	Ironstone china-marmalade pot	4	1800-1900+	N
	Other 'china'	2		N
	Brown glazed earthenware	1		N
	White stoneware-floral relief	4		N
	Painted/glazed china	1		N
	Blue earthenware	2		N
4/003	Stoneware – Doulton bottle	1	1850-1900	Y
	Chinaware-blue pattern	1		N
	Chinaware dinner plate	1		N
6/012	Flower pot	1	Post-medieval	N
	Green/white transfer printed ware	4	1825-1900	N
	Purple/white transfer printed ware	2	1840-1900	N
	Blue/white transfer printed ware	1	1780-1900	N
	English stoneware	1	1700-1900	N
	'Ironstone' – possible creampot	1	1800-1900	N
7003	Pale earthenware with lead green splash glaze	1	Medieval	N

The earliest pottery from the site is of medieval date, and is a sherd of a pale fabric with a splash of external green lead glaze from context (7003).

Contexts (1/002), (1/012), (4/003), (6002), and (6012) contain a varied mix of pottery dating to the 19th century and possibly the early 20th century. The pottery is typically domestic; containing sherds from tableware such as plates, cups, saucers and jugs, as well as storage vessels such as bottles and jars. The largest assemblage is from the upper fill of the gravel pit, and may represent household waste accumulating in the hollow of the backfilled pit. One complete item, a paste pot, is common in late 19th century dumps, and

unfortunately has no lid. The complete stoneware bottle is a quite elegant example of the type. It has a spout, which is damaged, but no lettering.

The Clay Tobacco Pipe

Clay tobacco pipe was retrieved from contexts (1/002) and (1/012). That from (1/002) was an undiagnostic stem piece whilst (1/012) has a decorated bowl (accessioned <1>). The form is Oswald and Atkinson Type 40, from the late nineteenth century, and is decorated with a horse and crescent moon. The seam has wheat sheaf decoration.

Ceramic Building Materials

Ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from four contexts (Table 2). The assemblage consists of brick and tile dating to the post-medieval period with no significant pieces. It is recommended that this material is discarded before the archive is submitted.

Table 2. The Ceramic Building Material

Context	Form	Width	Length	Depth	Frogged	Date
4/003	Red brick	105mm	-	55mm	N	'post med'
	Peg tile	-	-	-	-	'post med'
	Red Floor tile/ paver	100mm	-	30mm	-	'post med'
6006	Red brick	105mm	234mm	65mm	Y	18/19thC
	Red brick	105mm	-	60mm	Y	18/19thC
6009	Yellow brick	105mm	-	65mm	Y	18/19thC
	Red brick	101mm	225mm	65mm	Y	18/19thC
7003	Peg tile x5	155mm (one only)	-	-	-	With medieval pot sherd

The Glass

Four pieces of glass were retrieved from three contexts (1/002), (1/012) and (4/003). One large piece (1/002) is the base the base of a large green bottle with shallow punt, which may be a continental import. Two other large shards (1/012) are the neck of a green (wine) bottle and a pale, greenish hue base from a large bottle, which may be of early 19th century date. Context (4/003) contained most of a small green bottle, probably a small wine bottle.

Animal Bone

Only one fragment of bone was recovered from context (6012), and is part of a sheep's forelimb.

Discussion/Conclusion

The assemblage as a whole is useful for spot dating contexts but is not of any greater significance. It is dominated by late 19th century domestic waste. These relate to the buildings known to be present since the 19th century until their destruction in WW2. Context (7003) appears to be the earliest dated context, containing medieval pottery, but it may be residual, given the lack of other contemporary finds. The other contexts all appear to indicate nineteenth/twentieth century activity associated with the late nineteenth buildings until their destruction in WW2.

No further work is required on the assemblage.

The Moulded 'Stone' by Luke Barber, Archaeology South-East

A single piece of white moulded artificial 'stone' was recovered from Context 4/003. The fabric, which has a distinctly chalky appearance, contains sparse inclusions of black slag/clinker to 1mm and bubble voids. Although similar to moulded plaster it does not react with hydrochloric acid suggesting a ceramic rather than lime base. In that respect it is considered to probably be one of a number of artificial stones which became common in the 18th century as a cheap alternative to decorative stone ornament on buildings, the most famous of which is Coade stone, produced in the second half of the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries. Although the current piece is too soft to be Coade stone there were many artificial stones of the earlier 18th century, and indeed contemporary imitations of Coade stone which never attained its quality and it is possible the material equates with one of these. The excavated fragment appears to be a decorative scroll moulding with a vine leaf frontage which would have been secured to a wall, possibly as part of a decorative surround to a door, window, arched opening/recess or even fire surround. The soft nature of the material suggests it was for internal use, or in a sheltered external area. An 18th- century date is considered likely.

The piece is an isolated find and unless it can be associated with a specific sealed artefactual group and/or building, is considered to have no potential for further analysis.

Appendix C – OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: aocarcha1-39449

Project details

Project name Elmgreen School, Lambeth

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at The Elmgreen School, Elmcourt Road, West Norwood, London Borough of Lambeth in two phases. Phase 1 was undertaken between 28th January and 4th February 2008, and Phase 2 between 9th and 12th February 2009. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of eight trenches, within the footprint of the proposed development; five measured 20m x 2m and three measured 15m x 2m. No significant archaeological remains were identified during the evaluation. Three trenches contained remains of some historical interest. Trench 1 contained 19th century structural remains in the form of a brick culvert and brick wall, possibly a garden feature. Trenches 2 and 6 contained the remains of late 19th century walls. The remaining trenches contained evidence of recent truncation.

Project dates Start: 28-01-2008 End: 12-02-2009

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes EMG 08 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 30001 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over

Monument type WALL Post Medieval

Significant Finds TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval

Methods & 'Sample Trenches'
techniques

Development type Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

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

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON LAMBETH LAMBETH The Elmgreen School, Elmcourt Road.

Postcode SE27 9BZ

Study area 1.69 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 3199 7271 51.4374836113 -0.100812084832 51 26 14 N 000 06 02 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 46.84m Max: 48.37m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Brief not produced
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology

originator

Project Andy Leonard
director/manager

Project supervisor Paolo Guarino

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Alfred McAlpine Project Services
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Museum of London
recipient

Physical Archive EMG08
ID

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Glass'

Physical Archive 1 decorated tobacco pipe bowl has been registered.
notes

Digital Archive Museum of London
recipient

Digital Archive ID EMG08

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

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

Paper Archive Museum of London
recipient

Paper Archive ID EMG08

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title The Elmgreen School, Elmcourt Road, West Norwood, London Borough of Lambeth: an Archaeological Evaluation interim report.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Guarino, P.

Date 2008

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or publication AOC Twickenham

Description A4 bound document

Project bibliography 2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Elmgreen School, Elmcourt Road, West Norwood, London Borough of Lambeth: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Savage, L.

Date 2008

Issuer or AOC Archaeology
publisher

Place of issue or AOC Archaeology
publication

Description A4 bound document

Project bibliography 3

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Elmcourt Road, West Norwood, London SE27: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

Author(s)/Editor(s) Mansi, J.

Date 2007

Issuer or MoLAS
publisher

Place of issue or MoLAS
publication

Description A4 bound document

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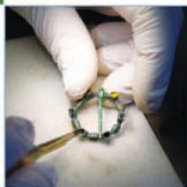
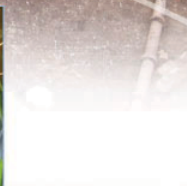
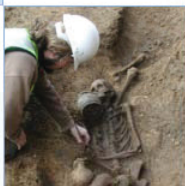
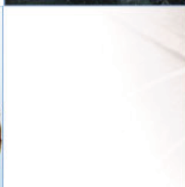
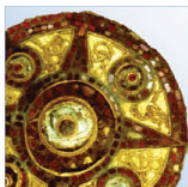
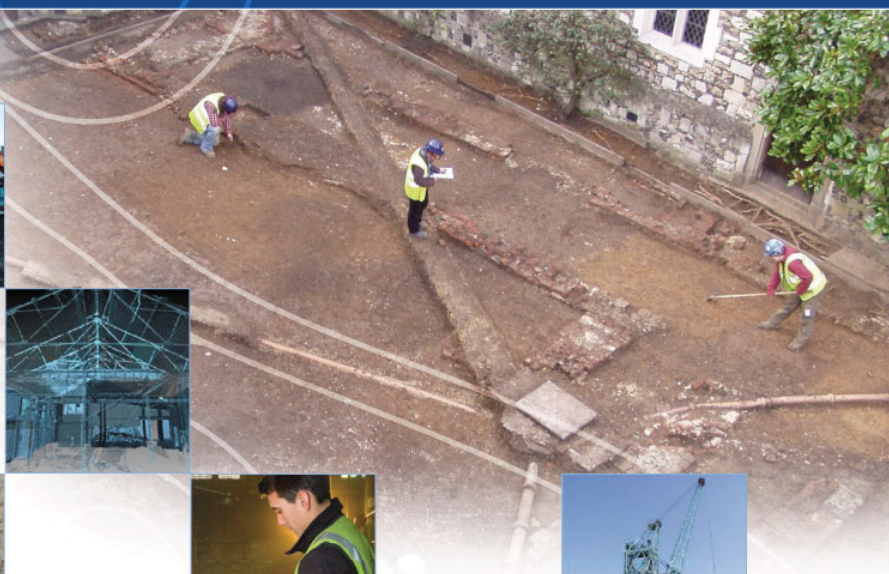
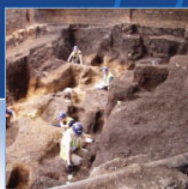
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