

The Chequers Inn, 149, Ealing Road London Borough of Brent An Archaeological Investigation Report

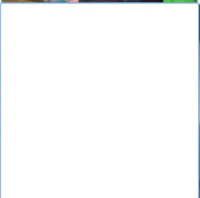
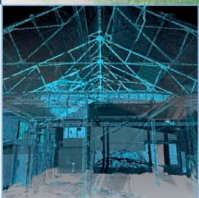
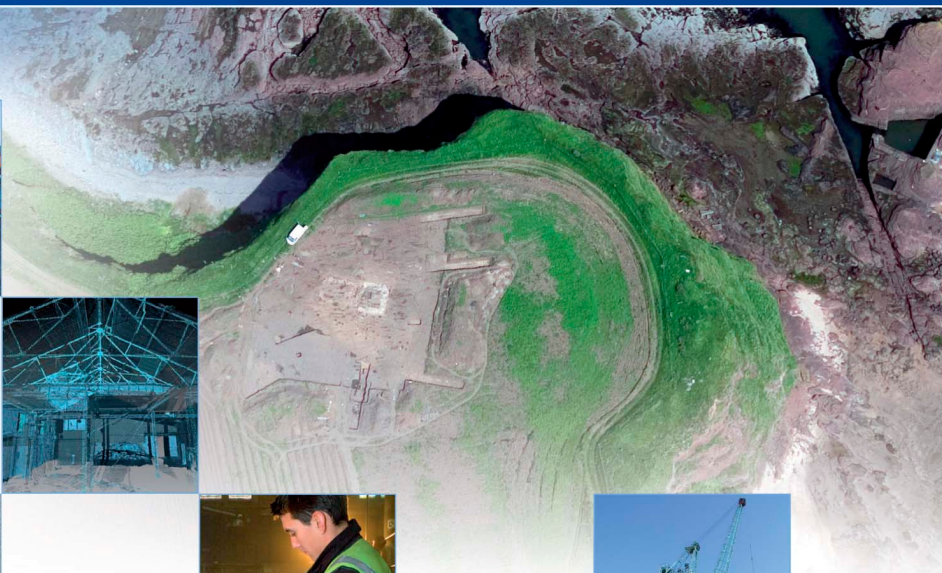
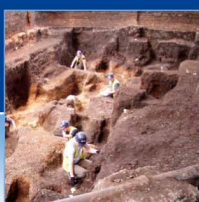
Planning Application Number 09/3013

National Grid Reference: TQ 1821 8413

AOC Project No: 30710

Site Code: EIG 10

May 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

**The Chequers Inn, 149 Ealing Road,
London Borough of Brent
An Archaeological Investigation Report**

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

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Contents

Page

List of Illustrations	ii
List of Plates	ii
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Geology and Topography	1
3. Archaeological And Historical Background.....	1
4. Aims of the Investigation.....	3
5. Methodology	3
6. Results of the Archaeological Evaluation	5
7. Results of the Building Record	8
8. Finds.....	17
9. Conclusions and Interpretation.....	17
10. Further Work and Publication	18
11. Archive Deposition.....	18
12. Bibliography.....	19
Appendix A- Context Register	30
Appendix B - Finds Assessment	31
Appendix C - OASIS Form	33

List of Illustrations

Figure 1:	Site Location
Figure 2:	Detailed Location Map
Figure 3:	Plan showing the buildings recorded and evaluation trenches
Figure 4:	Trenches 1 and 2: Plan
Figure 5:	Trenches 1 and 2: Sections
Figure 6:	Trench 3: Plan and section
Figure 7:	Basement Plan
Figure 8:	Ground Floor Plan
Figure 9:	First Floor Plan

List of Plates

Plate 1:	Section through major feature
Plate 2:	Northern aspect, the Chequers Inn
Plate 3:	Detail under northern gable
Plate 4:	Porch windows
Plate 5:	Public bar, external looking southeast
Plate 6:	Rear view
Plate 7:	Kitchen chimney
Plate 8:	East side of Inn

- Plate 9: Lounge bar looking northeast
- Plate 10: Partition of G13 looking southeast
- Plate 11: Public bar with wooden partition and serving counter
- Plate 12: Room G10
- Plate 13: Room G11
- Plate 14: Semi-ornate brackets in the landing
- Plate 15: Typical moulding of first floor
- Plate 16: Fireplaces in Rooms F1, F8 and F9 (left to right)
- Plate 17: Multi-flue chimneys
- Plate 18: Stable Block

Non-Technical Summary

A Level 3 programme of Historic Building Recording was conducted at 149, Ealing Road, in the London Borough of Brent (NGR TQ 1821 8413). The standing building is known as the Chequers Inn, a public house of early 20th century date built upon the remains of an earlier, 19th century building. All fittings dated to the 20th century, the evidence for an earlier building is primarily within the basement, and is shown by various internal walls and joists within the later build. This building was functional but also contained deliberately designed elements, such as the north elevation, which provides an imposing aspect for the traveller south along Ealing Road.

A three trench evaluation covering 100 square metres was also conducted at the site. The trenches identified no significant archaeological features; one deep soakaway is of 19th century date, and a large hollow backfilled in the 19th century is of uncertain function.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents the results of a Historic Building Record of the Chequers Inn and its associated stable block at 149 Ealing Road, in the London Borough of Brent. The recording included plans, field notes and photographs. The building was boarded up at the time of recording. An archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches was carried out at the same time.

Site Location

- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1821 8413 and is on the east side of Ealing Road, at the junction with Stanley Avenue (Figure 1). Residential properties on these two roads lie to the immediate south and east. The site is an irregular square in shape, on a southwest/northeast alignment, and approximately 1,980sqm in size (Figure 2).

Planning Background

- 1.3 A planning application has been made for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a 3, 4 and 5-storey building, comprising two commercial units and 30 self-contained flats with new vehicular and pedestrian accesses, cycle and refuse stores and a communal amenity space to the rear (Planning Application No 09/3013).
- 1.4 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Brent. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS). A Desk-Based Assessment was produced for the site, which investigated the archaeological potential (AOC 2008). Planning consent has been granted, with conditions. Condition 19 required a programme of archaeological investigation, Condition 20 required a Historic Building Record.
- 1.5 The next stage in the planning process was creation of a Written Scheme of Investigation, detailing the methodology for recording, and including some background history of the site (AOC 2010). This methodology was approved by Kim Stabler prior to the start of any site work. The building record has been made prior to demolition works but after closure

2. Geology and Topography

- 2.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 270), indicates the application site is underlain by bedrock geology of the London Clay Formation, and does not show a superficial geology overlying this. The clay is in contrast to areas further to the south in the better drained gravel terraces of the Brent River Valley.
- 2.2 The site is broadly flat, at around 37.7mOD. It is the highest point in the immediate area, Ealing Road dropping away northward and southwestwards. Stanley Avenue drops away eastwards. The River Brent lies 1.2km to the south.

3. Archaeological And Historical Background

- 3.1 The following background is drawn from the desk-based assessment (AOC 2008).

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

- 3.2 There have been few discoveries of prehistoric material in the immediate area of the site, with the best evidence lying 2.5km away, at Horsenden Hill, which appears to have been occupied in The Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, and also during the Iron Age. The nearer prehistoric remains are single finds: a Palaeolithic hand axe and a flint blade.

The Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)

- 3.3 The Roman period is also scarcely represented in the area. Roman building materials have been noticed, incorporated into the walls of later buildings, specifically at Old St. Andrew's Church in Kingsbury. Fragments of an amphora were found at the junction of Buck Lane and Kingsbury Road but the main focus of Roman settlement in this area is likely to be centred along Watling Street, over 6.8 km to the east of the site.

The Early Medieval (Saxon) Period (AD 410 - 1066)

- 3.4 Place-name evidence and historical sources attest to a definite early-medieval presence in the wider area. Horsenden, Wembley, Kenton and Sudbury, for example, all have place names thought contain Saxon element. Alperton itself is first mentioned in 1199, then recorded as '*Alpriton*', and similarly contains Saxon elements, and may derive from the 'farm of Ealhberoht'.

The Medieval Period (AD 1066-1550)

- 3.5 Between the 11th and mid-14th centuries, Alperton appears to have consisted of no more than the farmstead. By the middle of the fourteenth century there were six tenements in Alperton, suggesting the area is still relatively small. The location of five of these can be partially identified, and one was located in Watery Lane, north of the main village. This probably lies within the site.
- 3.6 The settlement pattern suggested by the location of these tenements is particularly dispersed and suggests that there was no nucleated settlement centre. It is likely that this is how Alperton remained through the medieval period and into the post-medieval era; a collection of small individual estate / farmsteads, which were located in relation to roads through the area. There was a bridge in existence over the River Brent by at least 1433, at the south end of Ealing Road. This was maintained and repaired over the centuries and was still in existence by 1818 when it was eventually rebuilt. This suggests travel and trade along the route of Ealing Road dates back to the medieval period.

The Post-Medieval (AD 1550 – 1900) & Modern Periods (1900+)

- 3.7 There was limited building and settlement activity in Alperton in the early part of the post-medieval period. This included three cottages, one 'new-built with brick' in 1681, a smith's shop was erected in 1680, two cottages were built in 1688 and further single cottages in 1689, 1697, 1711 and 1714. However, Alperton remained a relatively small and scattered settlement stretching from 'The Chequers Inn' at the junction of Ealing Road and Stanley Avenue in the north, to Vicar's Green in the south.
- 3.8 Alperton stayed undeveloped until the early 19th century, when the growth of industry was accompanied by a growth in housing. This was encouraged by the arrival of the Grand Junction Canal in the southern part of the parish in 1801. Industry recorded in the Alperton area included tile manufacture and brickfields, manure and oil from fish refuse in the centre of the village, a bone manure factory on the canal bank, and three large piggeries and coal wharfs on the canal side. Further growth was spurred on by the development of the railways, firstly to Wembley in 1842 and later to Perivale and Alperton Station (later name changed to just 'Alperton Station') in 1903. By the end of the 19th century, Alperton was the most industrialised village in the Wembley area.
- 3.9 Further industry came to Alperton in the early 20th century including a glass works, motorcycle and motor car factories, and fireproofing and rubber factories

The Chequers Inn

- 3.10 The earliest depiction of a building at 149 Ealing Road dates to 1744, when an inn on the site is identified as 'The Horn'. However, the earliest records for licensing date to 1751, when the inn was called 'The Chequers'. The licensee was a Mr. Richard Widginton. Records from the 19th century show that the licence had passed to William Avis in 1851-1861, Robert Young in 1871, Edward Rich in 1881-1882, Richard Greenway in 1895 and F. Eskin in 1898, who had plans for a new skittles alley approved in June of that year.
- 3.11 At the turn of the 20th century the public house was ran by 'Jumbo' Eccleston, a man of local repute who is remembered in several street names in the area. Plans for a rebuild by architect Stanley H. Hamp were approved on 20/05/1903 and Hamp produced a two storey, mock-Elizabethan structure that stands on the site today. It seems likely that elements from the earlier public house were retained. Following the rebuild, publicans licensed at 'The Chequers' included F. Jones in 1905, I. Keeley in 1906, James Keeley in 1910, James Braid 1914-1917, Herbert Almond in 1922 and Frank Marks in 1937. Early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps show greenhouses in the back garden.

4. Aims of the Investigation

- 4.1 The aims of the evaluation were defined as being:
- 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 archaeological monitor of GLAAS to make an informed decision on the status of the archaeological deposits 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.
- 4.2 The specific objectives of the evaluation were to determine:
- Is there evidence for the prehistoric occupation?
 - Is there evidence for the possible 14th century tenement reported in the Victoria County History within the site?
 - Have the alterations to the building during the 20th century impacted upon the potential archaeological horizon?
- 4.3 The aim of the Historic Building Recording is to make a permanent record of the structure and form of the public house, through a photographic, drawn and written record. Particular attention shall be paid to evidence for elements which may be part of an earlier inn on the site.
- 4.4 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2010).
- 5.2 The site code EIG10 was obtained for the project from the Museum of London, and used for all fieldwork.

- 5.3 The evaluation comprised of the machine excavation of three trenches (Figure 3). Trench 1 measured 17.5m by 2.5m, Trench 2 measured 15m by 2.6m and Trench 3 measured 11m by 2m. This altered slightly from the Written Scheme of Investigation, due to site constraints including live electric cables, trees and lack of space.
- 5.4 All machining during the evaluation was carried out using a 360 excavator with a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor.
- 5.5 All evaluation trenches were accurately located to the National Grid and their levels calculated using a temporary benchmark relating to a benchmark of 37.31mOD on 160 Ealing Road.
- 5.6 All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines:
- Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork* (English Heritage 1998)
 - Institute for Archaeologists – *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. (IfA 2009).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010).
 - Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 1994).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – *Conservation Guidelines No.2* (UKIC 1983).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – *Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice* (UKIC 1990).
- 5.8 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For each trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated.
- 5.9 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.
- 5.10 The building record corresponded to Level 3 of the English Heritage guidelines. Level 3 is an analytical record, and comprises an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record includes an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It includes all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.
- 5.11 The evaluation trenching and Building Recording was monitored by Kim Stabler of GLAAS, archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Brent, and Melissa Melikian for AOC Archaeology.

6. Results of the Archaeological Evaluation

Trench 1 (Figures 4 and 5)

- 6.1 Trench 1 measured 20.3m by 2.6m and was oriented parallel to Stanley Avenue, at the east of the site. The basic stratigraphy is given in the table below:

Table 1: Trench 1 Stratigraphy

Context	Description	Depth	Height AOD
101	Topsoil	0.25m	38.27m – 38.65m
107	Natural deposit	NFE	37.24m – 37.44m

- 6.2 Naturally-lain London Clay (107) was recorded at the base of a large cut, truncated to 37.24m in the south end of the trench, and to 37.44m in the north. This is consistent with the surrounding local topography. The large cut that truncated the clay [106] is oriented parallel to Stanley Avenue: northwest-southeast. It had a slight curve to its base, and continued well beyond the trench limits. The primary fill (105) was brownish yellow silty clay, very similar to the natural deposit, but containing occasional gravel inclusions as well as fragments of brick tile, pottery and clay pipe. These finds indicate a mid 18th century date. Above this was a compact layer of rounded gravel with occasional brick and tile inclusions (104). The gravel formed a roughly level horizon, but did not appear to form a deliberately-lain surface. It lensed out westwards. Sealing the gravel was a layer of dark brown sandy silty clay (103) up to 0.48m deep. This was clearly of post-medieval date, containing fragments of porcelain, china and clay tobacco pipe.
- 6.3 The upper fill of this large feature was cut by a trench running northeast-southwest [111], just 0.50m wide and 0.80m deep, into which a drain of late 19th century date was laid, consisting of 0.61m lengths of unglazed ceramic pipe of 0.22m diameter. The pipe trench was backfilled with the material it was cut through (110).
- 6.4 The pipe trench and feature fill were directly sealed by a layer of demolition material (102) up to 0.14m characterised by the presence of brick fragments, mortar pieces, roofing slate and numerous 19th century wine and beer bottles. This most likely derives from the known rebuilding of the Chequers Inn in 1903. Cutting this was a pipe trench running northwest-southeast [109], almost parallel to Stanley Avenue. The drainpipe was glazed, in 0.61m sections, with an internal diameter of 0.15m. This is probably a new drain established in 1903. The backfill was generally dark brown silty clay (110). The drain heads towards a soakaway uncovered in Trench 2.
- 6.5 The entire sequence was sealed by a layer of topsoil and turf (101), forming the garden level of the most recent phase, at 38.65mOD in the north, dropping southwards to 38.27m.

Trench 2 (Figures 4 and 5)

- 6.6 Trench 2 measured 15m by 2.6m running southwestwards from the southern end of Trench 1; a similar sequence was seen in the trench.

Table 2: Trench 2 Stratigraphy

Context	Description	Depth	Height AOD
200	Topsoil	0.10m	38.27m – 38.42m
209	Natural deposit	NFE	37.44m – 37.83m

- 6.7 Naturally-lain clay (209) was present at 37.83m at the southwestern end of the trench, lying roughly level, and truncated by 0.5m at the northeastern end. The clay was sealed by a layer of brownish yellow silty clay with some root disturbance (201) that was up to 0.12m thick.
- 6.8 The earliest feature in the trench was the western edge of the same large cut seen in Trench 1 [219]. This showed a gradual break of slope, a shallow angle of slope, dropping to a rounded base. The width of the cut was 6.5m, up to 0.70m deep, and continued beyond the limits of excavation. The primary fill was brownish yellow silty clay (218) which contained occasional gravel, brick and tile and pottery fragments indicating an 18th century date or later. This was sealed by a compact layer of gravel with occasional brick and tile fragments (217). This lay roughly level, and lensed out 2.5m east of the edge of the cut. This suggests that it may be a layer used to consolidate soft ground. The main body of fill above this was up to 0.48m deep (216) and was dark brown sandy silty clay, containing fragments of porcelain, china and clay pipe.
- 6.9 The edge of the large feature was cut by a pit [207], circular in plan, over 1.20m deep, with a brick-lined soakaway established inside [206]. The soakaway had a domed top with a square opening. The bricks measured 235mm by 112mm by 65mm, and indicated a 19th century date. The soakaway was investigated to a depth of 1.2m, and became very wet. The soakaway was backfilled with soft wet blackish brown silty sandy clay (208) that contained glass bottles, porcelain and building material that indicated a probable early 20th century date. A subsidiary cut [212] to the south of the soakaway is thought to be associated with it. This was 1.2m wide, 0.70m deep, and filled with dark yellowish brown sandy silt (211). This was contiguous with the soakaway cut, so may be a working space for its construction. No pipe was in this subsidiary cut, so it is not a pipe trench. A glazed ceramic pipe entering the soakaway from the north is probably a continuation of the drain seen in Trench 1. A thin layer of black, organic silty clay (213) over the top of the fill (211) may indicate that this feature was a soft spot in the property after being filled, and was damp.



Plate 1: Section through Cut Feature 219.

- 6.10 The top fill of the large feature was also cut by a trench [215] for a drain formed of 0.62m long unglazed red sections of drainpipe. This is probably contemporary with the unglazed drain in Trench 1. The drain cut was backfilled with greyish brown silty clay (214).
- 6.11 This entire sequence was sealed by a 0.24m thick layer of dark brown sandy clay (202) containing building material including brick, floor tile, slate and mortar. This is the same event seen in Trench 1, interpreted as representing the rebuild of the inn in 1903.
- 6.12 One other feature in the trench was a posthole of quite modern date. This was almost circular, being 0.88m by 0.83m, and had near vertical sides with a flat base and was 0.48m deep [205]. It was seen cutting the subsoil, but may have been established through the topsoil on the site. The lower fill of the posthole was dark brown sandy clay with bricks used for packing (210). The post itself was extant, although in much degraded form (204), and was rectangular in section. The upper fill above the packing was sandy silt with chalk fragments (203).

- 6.13 The whole trench was sealed by a layer of topsoil and turf (200), forming the garden level of the most recent phase, at 38.42mOD in the southwest, near the Inn, dropping northeastwards to 38.27m.

Trench 3 (Figure 6)

- 6.14 Trench 3 was located between the stable block and the south side of the Chequers Inn. It measured 11.2m by 2m, oriented east-west.

Table 3: Trench 3 Stratigraphy

Context	Description	Depth	Height AOD
301	Topsoil	0.21m	38.55m – 38.99m
302	Garden soil	0.20m	38.42m
303	Disturbed subsoil	0.12m	38.33m
304	Natural deposit	NFE	38.13m – 38.22m

- 6.15 The natural clay (304) lay at 38.22m in the west of the trench, dropping slightly to 38.13 in the east. It was sealed by 0.12m thickness of subsoil, which was brownish yellow silty clay (303). This in turn was sealed by greyish brown silty clay up to 0.20m deep, which resembled a garden soil (302).
- 6.16 One feature cut the garden soil, a tree pit [306] in the southern edge of the trench showed the typical characteristics of such a feature: irregular base, irregular edges and irregular in plan. The dark grey silty clay fill (305) contained decayed roots, occasional brick and tile as well as charcoal.
- 6.17 The tree pit and garden soil were sealed by the latest horizon, topsoil and turf of the current garden level (301) up to 0.21m thick. This was cut [308] by a 1m square drain chamber of very recent date, and an associated pipe running southwestwards (307).

7. Results of the Building Record (Figures 7-9)

Introduction

- 7.1 The Chequers Inn stands on a high point of 38mOD, and, its principal aspect faces northwards, attracting traffic southwards along Ealing Road. The large gable end clearly states the identity of the Inn. The building has two floors and a cellar, and has external walls of brick, much of which is pebble-dashed; the windows are mostly lead-glazed with rectangular panes and there are tiled and flat roofs. There are two bars within the inn, a lounge bar in the northeast and a public bar to the west. Each bar is served with toilet facilities. A kitchen lies to the rear. The stair to the cellar and to the first floor rises in the centre of the property. The first floor has living areas. A small brick building to the south has a pitched roof and doors that suggest a carriage-house, stable, or garage. The northern end of the Inn is currently a tarmac parking space with cobbles beneath, while to the east and south is the beer garden. At the time of recording, the site had been enclosed with protective hoarding, and all ground floor openings boarded up.



Plate 2: northern aspect, the Chequers Inn Plate 3: detail under northern gable

External Description

- 7.2 The northern elevation is dominated by a large gable end surmounting two floors, above the lounge bar. The lower parts of the northern elevation are faced with glazed brick. The ground floor has a projecting polygonal bay, with leaded windows in the top register, plain windows in the lower. Directly above, on the first floor, is a large five-piece window, which gives a great amount of light into the northern room. The window is typical of all on the first floor: forty-five rectangular panes in each case, properly leaded with lead comes. The two opening casements have glazing bars. Within the gable end is an ornate shield with the name of the inn in the centre and art nouveau foliate decoration around.
- 7.3 The building extends westwards with the public bar. Its northern wall has one small window and one large doorway, since blocked and now a second window. The lower part of the wall is glazed brick; the rest is painted pebble-dash. The blocked doorway retains its door furniture: the opening has bull nosed bricks around and a small rectangular hood is supported on a pair of convex wooden brackets.
- 7.4 At first floor level, a four-piece lead-glazed casement gives light to a single room. The roof above is hipped, the hip spanning the ridge to the ground floor ceiling level. Within the corner between the two

bars is a single storey porch providing the main entrance to the northeast bar. This is constructed of wooden posts and brick. The entrance is through the north, the western side has an interesting group of windows.



Plate 4: Porch windows

7.5 The west wall of the public bar has a bay window, of same style as the northern bay. A second window lies south of this. At the south end of this side, a small extension is part of a toilet suite. The entrance to the western bar is in this wall, the door is part glazed with six lights, and there is a short porch entrance. An outer metal door is a modern security door. A pair of cellar hatch doors is the delivery point for barrels.



Plate 5: western bar, external looking southeast



Plate 6: Rear view

7.6 At the rear of the property, the south elevation is all pebble-dashed, except for the windows. Two casements on the first floor lie below a flat roof, and the ground floor has two windows and two doors with a lean-to roof above.

- 7.7 A single storey building attached to the main structure houses the kitchen (**G10**). This has a hipped roof, and is accessed from inside the main Inn, as well as a pair of doors in its west wall. Two extensions lie against the south wall, both with lean-to roofs: one is brick, the other corrugated iron. The kitchen's best feature is a chimney in the south wall whose form suggests a 19th century date, but may be 20th century.



Plate 7: Kitchen chimney

- 7.8 The eastern wall has been largely removed a ground floor level following the addition of a pair of polygonal extensions of modern date. An earlier extension to the north houses a toilet and washroom with a lean to roof that is bonded in to the main structure and therefore later. At first floor level, a large sign advertising 'The Chequers' with a chequerboard shield motif is located towards the front of the building, and there are three windows: two are three-light casements, the other is a small casement lighting a small lavatory. All of these have leaded windows with square panes.



Plate 7: east side of Inn

Cellar

- 7.9 The cellar (Figure 7) can be accessed from the outside in the case of barrel deliveries, or from the interior of the Inn. The internal entrance is in the centre of the bar area, and is via eight steep wooden steps. These are not the original steps: they overlie brick steps that are constructed with

engineering brick treads. The stairs lead to a group of rooms that form the cellar, the height of which is 1.82m. The stairs decamp into a square room (**B3**) with a modern breezeblock partition forming a smaller room (**B2**). These are both storerooms. The base of a chimneystack can be seen in the southeast corner of this area. Each corner of the square room is supported by large structural piers with rounded corners.

- 7.10 Running west from the square room is a corridor, which leads to the external entrance (**B1**). The corridor runs for 7m from the large piers and the sides are clad with metal plates. The external wall of the Inn is supported on a pair of I-beams that cross the corridor. Most joists in the cellar also run north-south. This corridor appears to be a different phase from the rest of the cellar, although thick paint on the walls and a skim of concrete on the floor obscure much detail.
- 7.11 To the north of the square room is a large chamber (**B4**) currently measuring 9.2m by 4.6m with a new partition at its western end. This is the main barrel store, with over 50 barrels present. Also in the room is the equipment for pumping the beers to the bar of the ground floor. Much of the equipment remains affixed to the southern wall. The partition in the room is at the western end and is formed of breezeblocks. This room (**B5**) now houses the fuse boxes for the entire building, the fuses variously labelled with codes and identifiers. The room has a polygonal end that resembles the form of a bay window, a polygonal shape similar to those of the ground floor. However, this lies 7m within the current exterior wall, so indicates the survival of an earlier layout of the building, and offers suggestions for the evolution of the building on the floors above.

Ground Floor

- 7.12 The ground floor (Figure 8) can be split into four zones: the lounge bar to the north, the public bar to the west and attendant rooms to the south. A kitchen block appears to be a separate build. The counter of the bar runs around the centre of the building which houses the stairwell.



Plate 9: Lounge bar looking northeast

- 7.13 The lounge bar is open plan and can be accessed by customers from the small porch at the front of the building, or through a door from the garden area. There is no direct access between the two bars: a wooden panelled partition divides the two areas, and is of a style consistent with an early 20th century date, thus an original fitting of the 1903 phase. The whole bar has a wide skirting board with a roll moulding above and a dado rail: painted blue below, cream above. Thus, the internal finishes

are of a single, 1903 phase. The carpet is floral. Access to the rear suite of rooms is at the southwest end of the bar.

- 7.14 The east wall of the lounge bar was removed quite recently to allow access to new polygonal rooms (**G20**) added to the east side. The lounge bar has four distinct areas: To the south is a rectangular area (**G7**) defined by the removed outside wall to the east, now supported by I-beams. The southern wall has a chimneystack and blocked fireplace, a wooden partition to the public bar lies to the east, and a beam at ceiling level to the north suggests that another wall may have been knocked through. This room measures 8.6m by 5.5m. The serving counter now stands in the location of the lost east wall. Part of this room has been sub-divided to form a new office; a simple hardboard construction next to the central stairwell (**G8**).
- 7.15 North of this is a small square part of the bar (**G5**), defined by the east and west walls of the bar, by area G7 to the south and an open wooden partition to the north (**G13**). Access from the porch (**G6**) into this room is from the west.
- 7.16 North of here, two steps up give access to a room including the front bay (**G13**). An imprint on the carpet indicates that this recently had a pool table. The wooden partition dividing this from the room to the south appears to be of modern date.



Plate 10: Partition of G13 looking southeast

- 7.17 To the east of this raised area are toilets for both sexes (**G14-G16**). These are within a block with a lean-to roof, which is bonded into the main structure, and therefore additional to the 1903 build.
- 7.18 The public bar, accessed from the west, has beams in the ceiling supporting walls above, and these may represent a significant alteration to the west wall of the property. The beams lie directly above some walls of the basement, and therefore may indicate part of the form of the inn before the substantial rebuild of 1903. The beams also suggest that the north and south walls may be part of this older phase. The skirting and dado rail are of a style with those in the Lounge bar, so it is likely that all internal finishes date to the 1903 rebuild. Access to the cellar is behind the counter in this bar. The counter itself is a lightweight wooden frame with wooden panels. Pipes from the beer cellar (Room B4) rise behind the counter.



Plate 11: Public Bar with wooden partition and serving counter

- 7.19 Facilities for both sexes are also present in this bar: The gents are to the south (Rooms **G2** and **G3**), while the ladies are to the west (**G4**). Of interest is an angled chimneystack in the southeast corner of the bar, which may be part of an earlier phase. The fireplace is blocked.
- 7.20 To the rear of the lounge bar, a doorway opens south into the kitchen block, and west into a short corridor that gives access to the stairs to the first floor, a store and to a fire exit to the rear.
- 7.21 The kitchen block has a small store in the north (**G9**) and the cooking area to the rear (**G10**). Food items that remain in the rooms are evidence for the inn's most recent ownership and part-use as a restaurant specialising in curries. The kitchen block, with its hipped roof, is single storey, and notably lacking in ornament, being very functional. There is daylight provided by windows in the east wall to both rooms: the windows are wooden framed and the windows have no decorative features, being simple casements. The kitchen has its main range along the east wall, but originally must have had its cooking area at the south end, where a chimneystack rises. The fireplace for this stack is blocked, and an extractor fan cut through the chimney. The south wall has been cut for a doorway into a more modern brick extension, used as a store.
- 7.22 The corridor (**G11**) behind the public bars leads to the fire exit to the south which can also be accessed through the kitchen. To the west of the corridor is a large irregular room, its shape determined by the presence of the ladies lavatories on its north side, behind a partition wall. The room is lit by a large window in the south wall, with wooden casements. These rear windows contrast sharply with the windows in the north, east and west faces, which are high quality, whereas these are cheaper.



Plate 12: Room G10



Plate 13: Room G11

- 7.23 The stairs lead north to a landing then wind westwards. Light to the stairwell is limited, depending on doors to rooms being open, with a little light from an upstairs landing. There is no surviving stair furniture; the walls of the stairwell are brick, the stairs totally enclosed. The only banister is at the top, to prevent falls from the landing.

First Floor

- 7.24 The first floor (Figure 9) is accessed up a single flight of stairs that open onto a landing running east-west (F5), and the landing also runs north to the front of the building (F11). The landing is edged against the stairwell with a banister of square-profile posts and a curved rail. Principal posts of the banister rise to the ceiling, where they support an east-west joist with the use of semi-ornate brackets.



Plate 14: Semi-ornate brackets in the landing.



Plate 15: Typical moulding of first floor

- 7.25 The internal finishes across the whole of the first floor are alike; ceiling mouldings have sharp, squared profiles, doorframes have a succession of roll moulding and a square stop, and picture rails are of a simple form. The north, east and west windows also have a common form; well-glazed panels typically 9 by 5 units in casements. The identical form of all fittings suggests that the whole of

the first floor has been fitted at one time: if any of the walls or openings are part of an earlier phase of the building, all the fittings date to the 1903 rebuild.

- 7.26 Each of the rooms on the first floor merits some description. At the top of the stairs, two rooms lie directly south, the doors angled to the top of the landing. Both rooms (**F1** and **F2**) share an angled chimneystack against the south wall, and both have surviving fireplaces of identical form. These have been moulding around the metalwork and a floral frieze above. This stack is seen rising in the corner of the public bar on the ground floor. These rooms both have simple windows; wooden casements, and are not ornate like the rest of the floor. These windows do not face any of the main approaches, so they may indicate a cutting of expenditure.
- 7.27 At the end of the east-west landing is a small toilet. Even this room has a small, leaded window, to maintain the external aspect. Also at the east of the landing is a moderate-sized room most recently used as a bathroom, with a dormer window facing south (**F5**).
- 7.28 The north-south landing gives access to one room to the west, two to the east and one to the north. The room to the west (**F6**) lies directly above the public bar, and is light and well-appointed. The window is four-piece, of the 1903 phase. This may have been used for accommodation, but whether for landlord's family or for guests, cannot be ascertained.
- 7.29 The first room to the east has been partitioned to form a kitchen (**F8**), bathroom (**F7**) and anteroom (**F12**), suggesting the rooms above the lounge bar became a self-contained flat. The partitions do not enhance the room. The partition between the bathroom and kitchen terminates part way across the three light windows. Of interest, however, is the fireplace, which has floral and Indian decorative motifs, probably due to the art-deco movement. This room shares its chimneystack with a room to the south (**F9**). There is no evidence for this major stack on the ground floor: it would be in the centre of the Lounge Bar.
- 7.30 Room F9 is light, and shows the same mouldings as the rest of the floor. The fireplace survives in this room, the mantelpiece having a tulip design. This room was most recently a sitting room for the self-contained flat.



Plate 16: Fireplaces in Rooms F1, F8 and F9 (left to right)

- 7.31 The northern room of this floor (**F10**) looks north along Ealing Road, and despite its northern aspect, is well lit by a five-light led-lit casement. There are few features of note in this room, until recently a bedroom. There is an angled chimneystack in the corner: this is blocked.

Roof and Chimneys

- 7.32 The roof is tiled, varied pitched or hipped, as described in the section on the exterior. The chimneys are all brick, topped with pale brown ceramic pots. There are two main styles of chimney, multi-flue and simpler. One multi-flue chimney rises between Rooms F8 and F9, no stack left on the ground floor, and has four pots, showing two missing flues. The second has three pots, and rises at the rear of Rooms F1 and F2. The other chimneys are straight, and plain, and generally finish below ridge level.



Plate 17: multi-flue chimneys

Stable Block/ Carhouse

- 7.33 The stable block is rectangular in plan, oriented roughly east-west. It has a tile roof which is hipped at the east and pitched with a gable end at the west, facing onto Ealing Road. The walls are brick.
- 7.34 There are two rooms in the building. The west room has two sets of double doors in the western end which were boarded up at the time of recording. The floor of the front room is concrete; it was not possible to tell if there was another from of floor previously. A window in the north side has six panes in a lower window, two in an opening casement above.
- 7.35 The rear room is accessed through a stable door, and has a window in the eastern wall. The concrete of the floor was worn in this room, showing manufactured cobbles of 20th century date. The ceiling joists run north-south and have angled supports between, typical of the late 19th or early 20th century. A hatch in the ceiling was not accessible, but the loft is clearly boarded, and there is a small window in the front wall. It is tempting to consider this as a hay loft.
- 7.36 The function of this building as a stable is assumed by the stable door, perhaps carts held in the front room. If this were a stable, it was probably soon converted to a garage in the early 20th century.



Plate 18: Stable Block

8. Finds

- 8.1 A small assemblage of pottery was collected from the base fill of the large feature in Trenches 1 and 2. This provides a date of post-1770 for its initial fill. An assemblage of bottles collected from the demolition horizon of 1903 provides a typical assemblage of drinks bottles of the late 19th century.

9. Conclusions and Interpretation

Evaluation Trenches

- 9.1 The trenches have revealed several elements of the history of the site, all dating to the post-medieval period. No prehistoric or medieval features were present, or any finds predating the 18th century. The largest and most significant feature is the large cut in the northeast of the site running parallel to Stanley Avenue. This feature at over 6m wide and only 0.80m deep, running, presumably, the length of the property and even beyond, may be either an early form of boundary, or perhaps a clay-pit that was abandoned. The dating evidence all indicates that the feature was filled during the late 18th century, if not later. There is a notable absence of thin lenses of fill that may indicate gradual backfilling, silting up, or a period when the cut lay open. The lowest fill of silty clay may be a product of limited weathering of the base of the feature. The gravel above is almost suggestive of a deliberately lain surface, but it was not consistent throughout the feature, did not continue to the edges, and had no defining features such as a camber or drainage ditch that may prove that this was a road or other surface. It is probably simply consolidation, a dump of gravel laid into the hollow to make the ground up. Similarly, the bulk of the fill, which resembles topsoil, was probably dumped in the hollow. Possibly, it derives from remodelling of the site for one of the phases of the Inn predating 1903.
- 9.2 Part of the archaeological record is dominated by drains and a soakway. There are two phases of drain, and they all lie in the fill of the large feature. The earlier drains are unglazed red ceramic, the later are glazed. The soakaway in trench 2 predates the known rebuild of the Inn in 1903, whereas the glazed drain that feeds into it from trench 1 post-dates the 1903 rebuild, so clearly the soakaway continued in use before it was filled.
- 9.3 The known rebuild of the Inn in 1903 is a notable horizon in Trenches 1 and 2, typified by building materials. Little can be gleaned about the form of the older building from the materials: it consisted of brick, and had a slate roof. No further work is recommended on the 1903 material except for registering the complete bottles.

The Chequers Inn

- 9.4 The Chequers Inn is largely of early 20th century date. The bar fittings in both the lounge and public bar are consistent with the new build of 1903, and the internal fittings on the first floor all indicate a single phase of decoration and furnishing. In general, the inn is a good example of an early 20th century drinking establishment, with some pretensions to grandeur with its high northern gable, and leaded windows giving a mock-Tudor look to the whole property. The mock Tudor design may have been specifically built to attract customers to what is a fine spacious building with particularly well-made leaded windows in the 'Tudor' style. Whether the building catered for overnight customers is not apparent in the modern furnishings, but it is possible that the north facing room on the first floor could have been for guests, and the stable block suitable for a small horse and trap. However, the arrival of the motor car in the early 20th century may have prevented the inn being used much by overnight travellers. Its presence on a major thoroughfare is a symptom of mobility of custom, particularly the grand northern elevation, attracting travellers journeying south along Ealing Road.

- 9.5 Of all the fixtures and fittings, those in the public and lounge bars are the plainest, the scheme of bi-coloured walls broken only by dado rails. The more decorative are the surviving fireplaces on the first floor. There have clearly been reconfigurations of internal spaces since the building was constructed in 1903, particularly in The Lounge Bar, with the loss of the east wall to modern extensions, and the addition of the toilet block to the east. It seems probable that the softer decorations: carpets and wall paint is more modern. The size of the bar has also changed.
- 9.6 The sequence of the buildings development is made clearest through a study of the cellar. The main cellar walls are seen to support the central staircase, and are located directly below beams that support walls on the first floor, but many are no longer present on the ground floor. Of particular evidence for the configuration of an earlier building phase is the foundation for a bay window in Room B5.
- 9.7 The walls and beams suggest that an earlier building of 19th century date was enlarged in 1903. This is not the building known as the Horn or the Chequers Inn, known to be on the site in the 18th century: this appears to be a building later than that. It is represented by the north and south walls of the public bar, the lost east wall of the lounge bar with the chimneystack at the south of Room G7. It seems likely that the secondary part of the lounge bar, Room G5, is also of this earlier phase, and possibly the porch too.
- 9.8 On the first floor, most of the rooms probably belong to the earlier phase, modified only with new Tudor-style windows and internal fittings. The major first floor change in the extension of the Inn northwards and the large room thus made (Room F10).
- 9.9 The kitchen block appears to be a separate building. It has a quite rustic look to it, but the size of the bricks shows it to be of 20th century date.

10. Further Work and Publication

- 10.1 No further fieldwork is required in the light of these results, following advice from Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service. The complete bottles will be registered for deposition at the Museum of London.
- 10.2 Copies of the report will be issued to the LPA archaeological advisor, the SMR Manager, LAARC and the local studies Library on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time.
- 10.3 A short summary of the results of the evaluation will be published with a short summary submitted to the London Archaeologist fieldwork roundup, and grey literature added to the online ADS OASIS project (Appendix C).

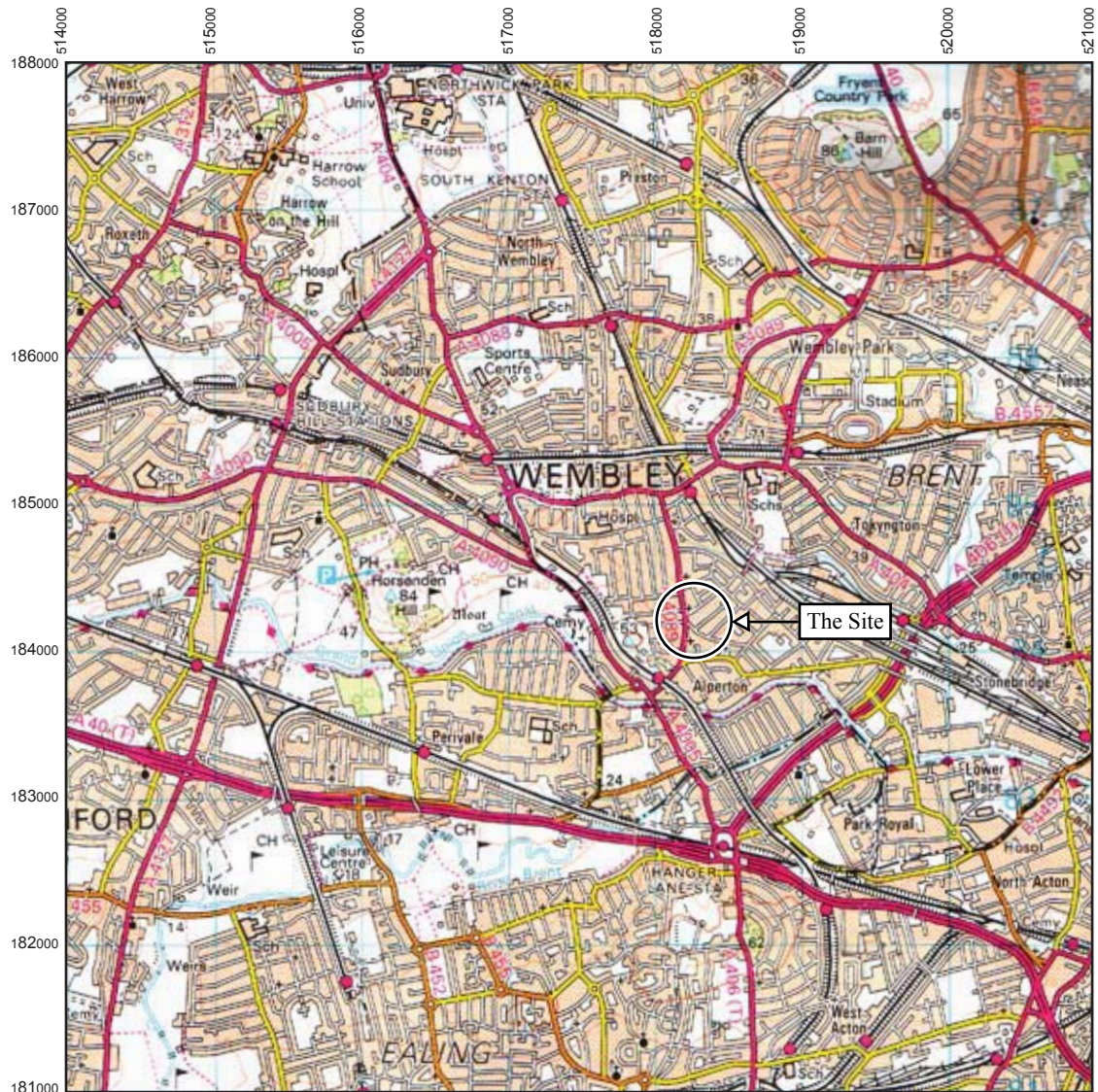
11. Archive Deposition

- 11.1 The archive will be prepared in accordance with local and national guidance (UKIC 1990, Brown & AAF 2007). On completion of the project, AOC will discuss arrangements for the archive to be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) the developer/landowner. It is envisaged that the archive will be deposited within six months of the approval of the report.

12. Bibliography

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THE CHEQUERS INN, 149 EALING ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

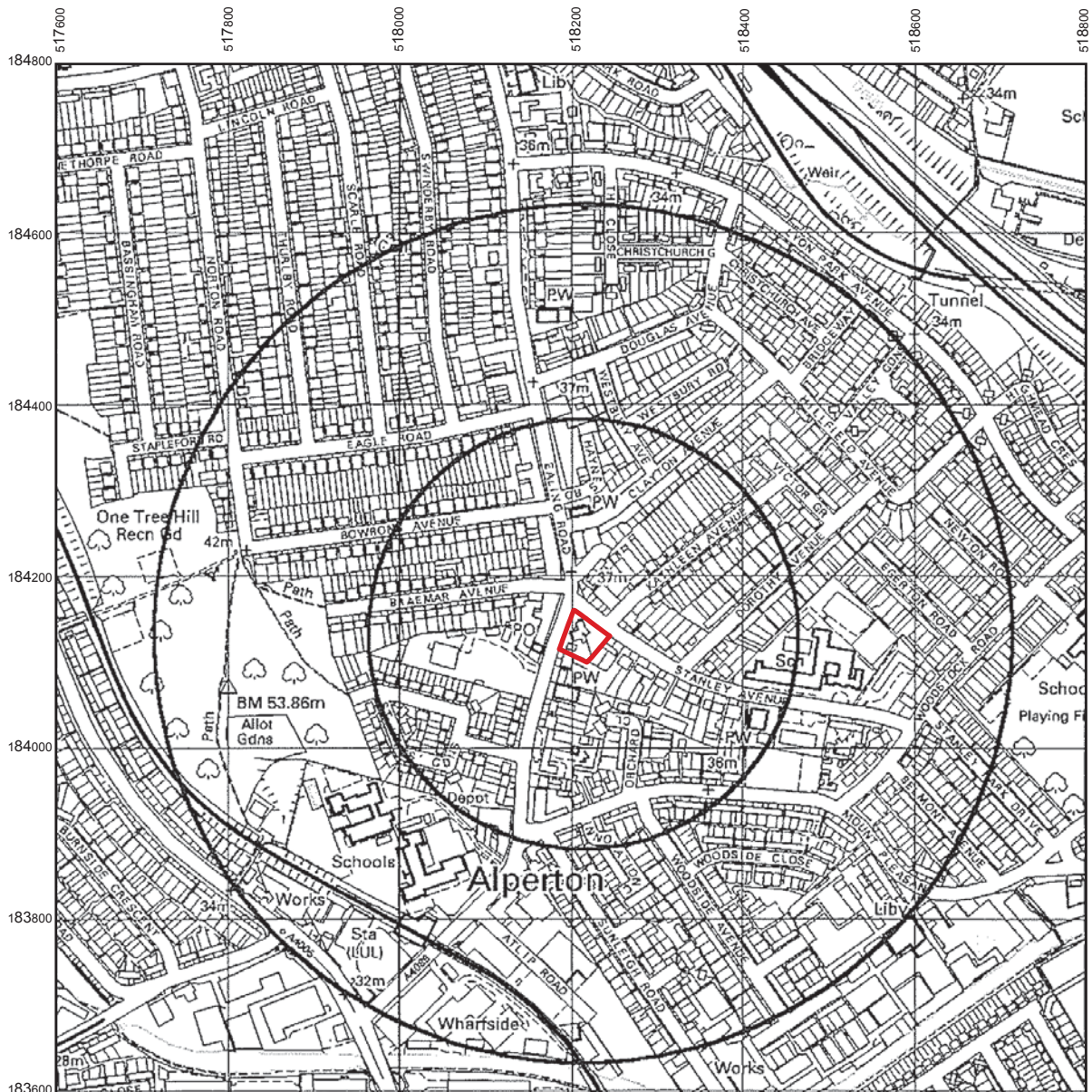


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Figure 1: Site Location

THE CHEQUERS INN, 149 EALING ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT



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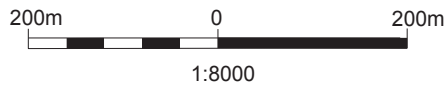
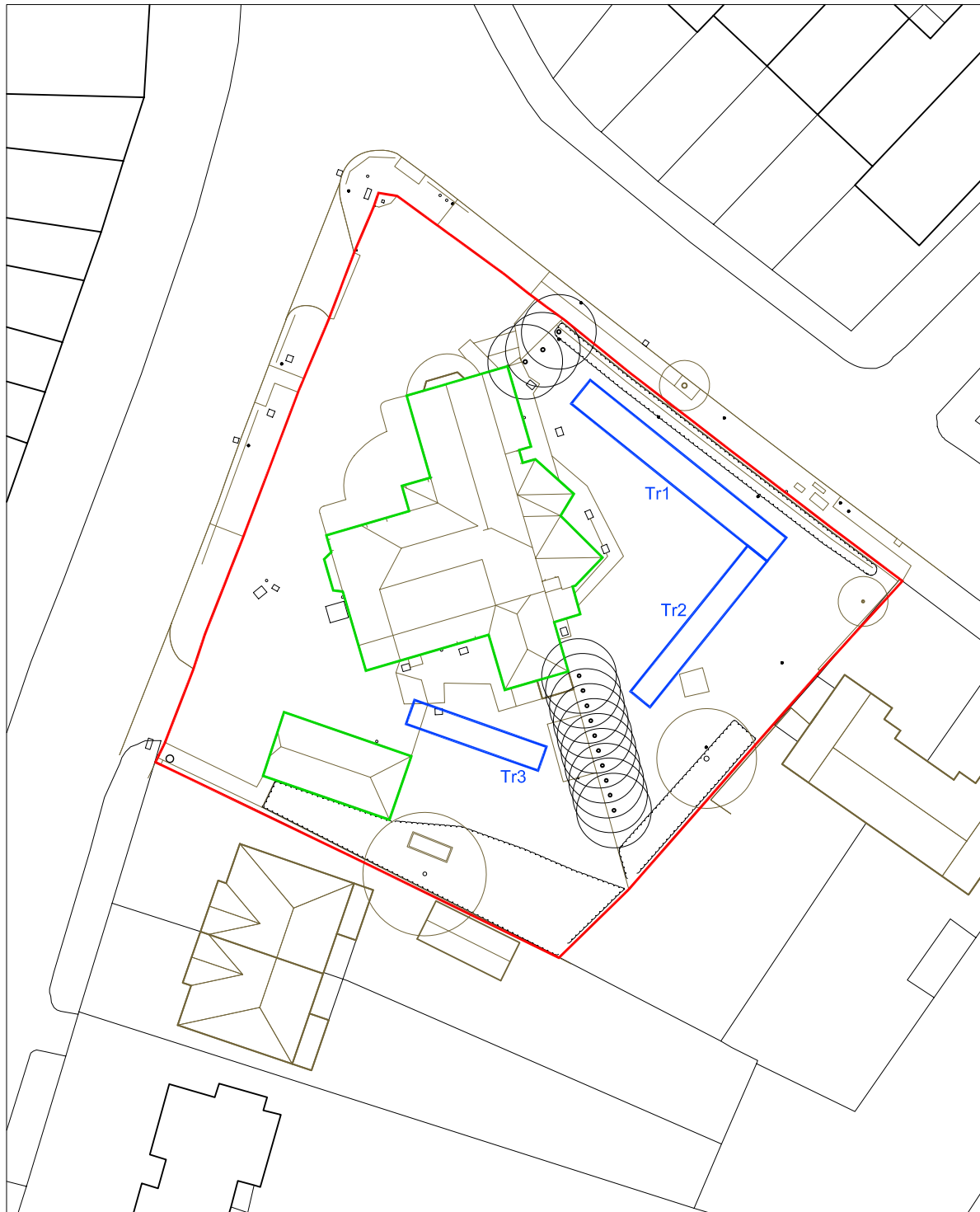
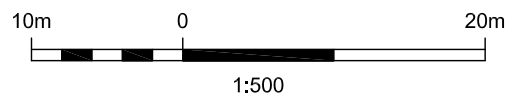


Figure 2: Detailed Location Map

THE CHEQUERS INN, 149 EALING ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT



Based on the Plan Provided by Forge Architects



- Site Outline
- Buildings Recorded
- Evaluation Trenches

Figure 3: Plan Showing the Buildings Recorded and the Evaluation Trenches

THE CHEQUERS INN, 149 EALING ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

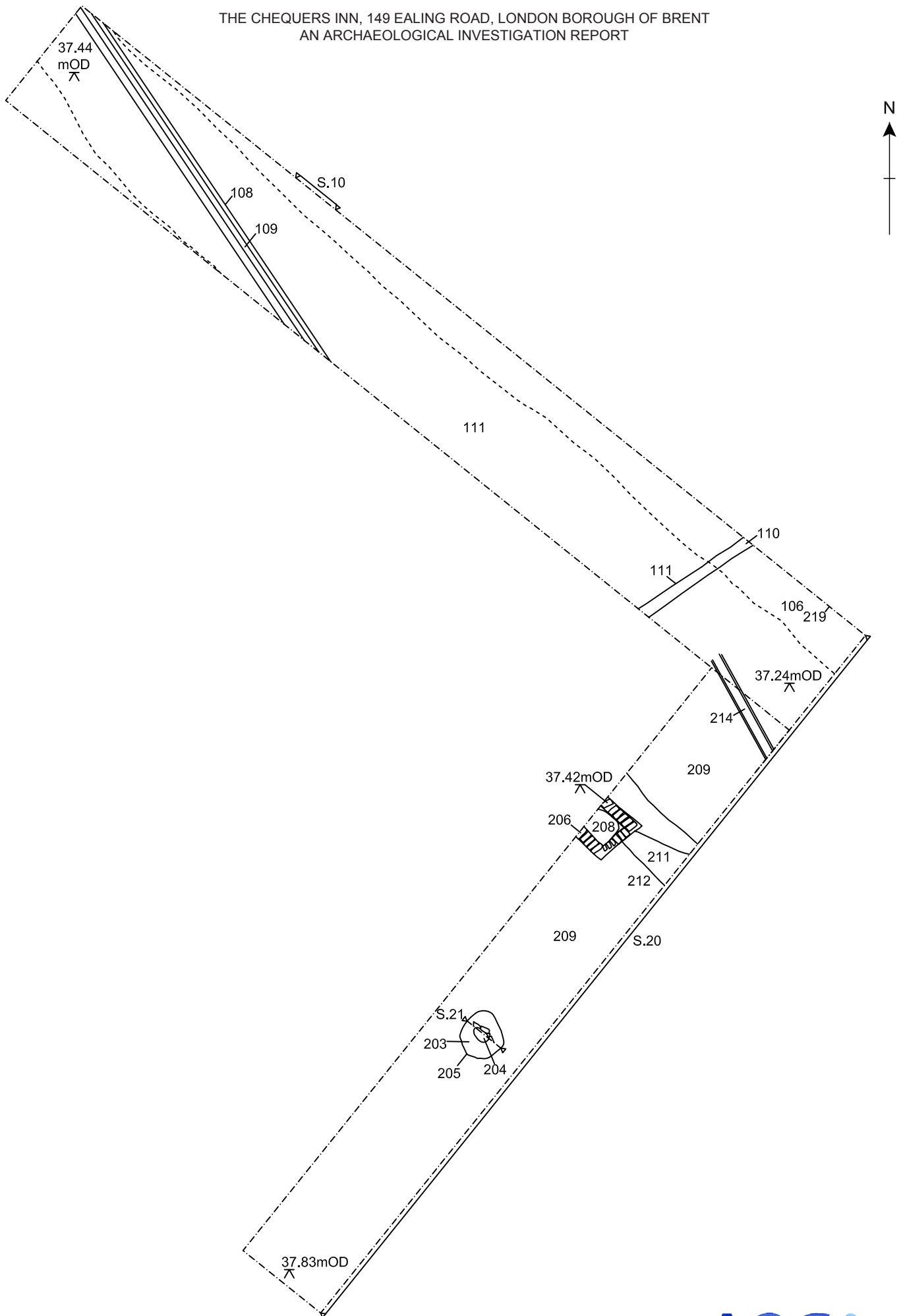


Figure 4: Trenches 1 & 2: Plan

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

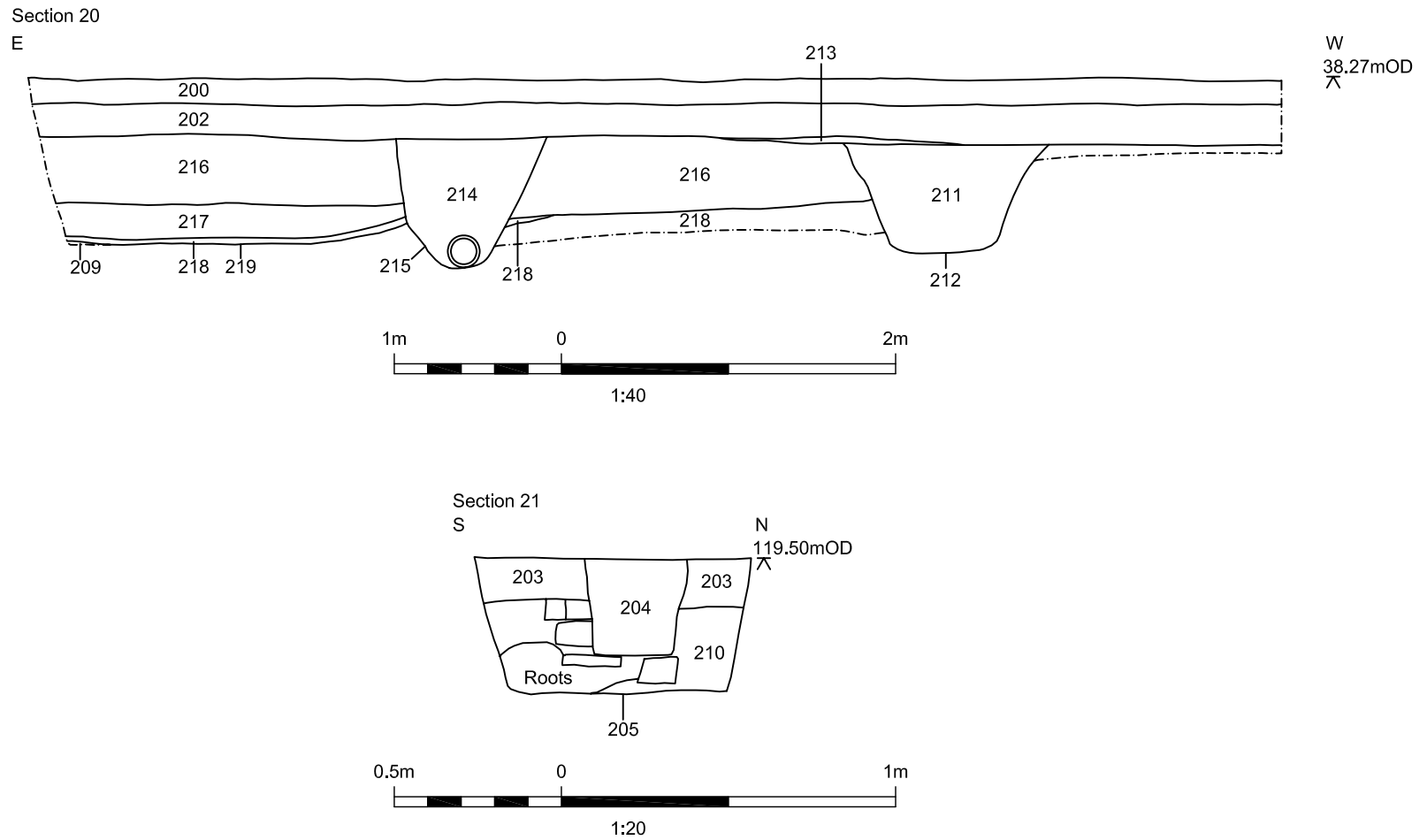


Figure 5: Trench 2: Sections

THE CHEQUERS INN, 149 EALING ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

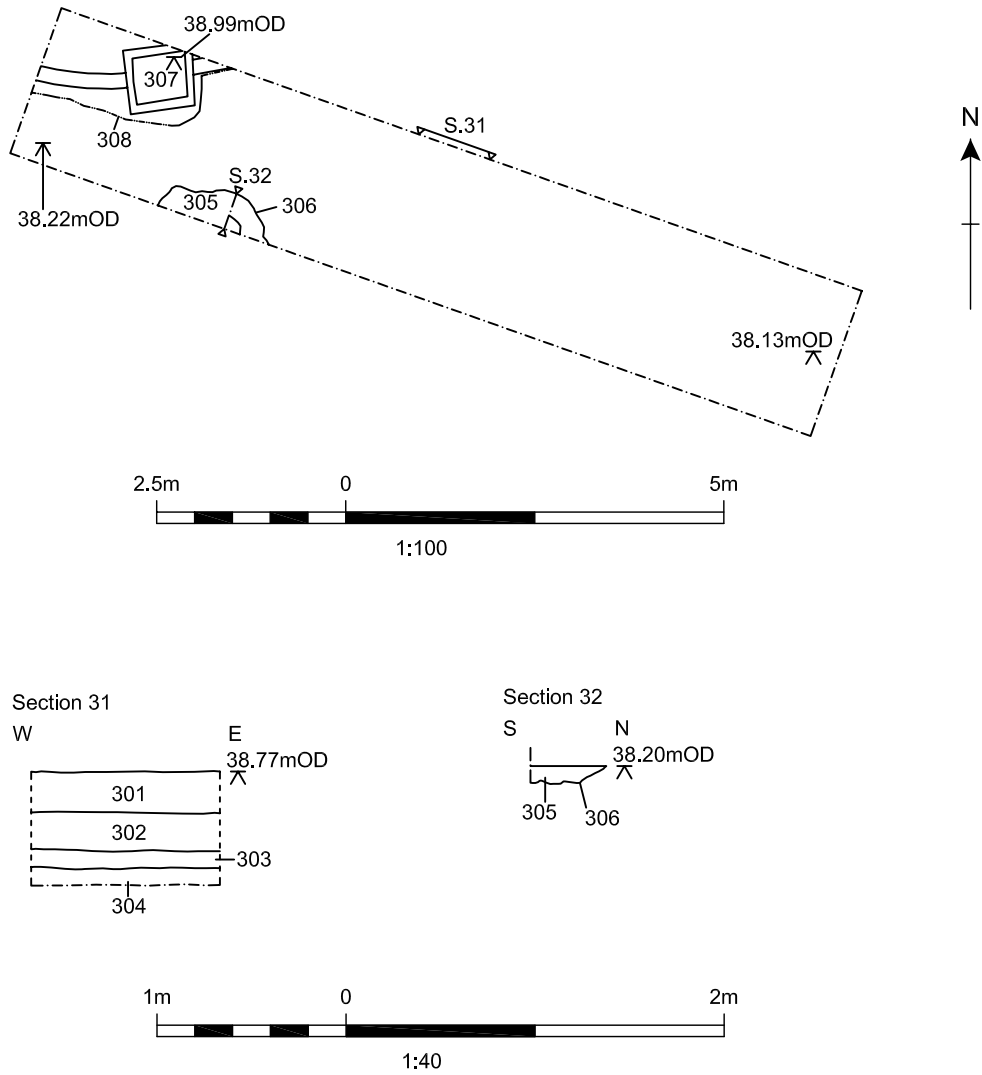


Figure 6: Trench 3: Plan (1:100) & Sections (1:40)

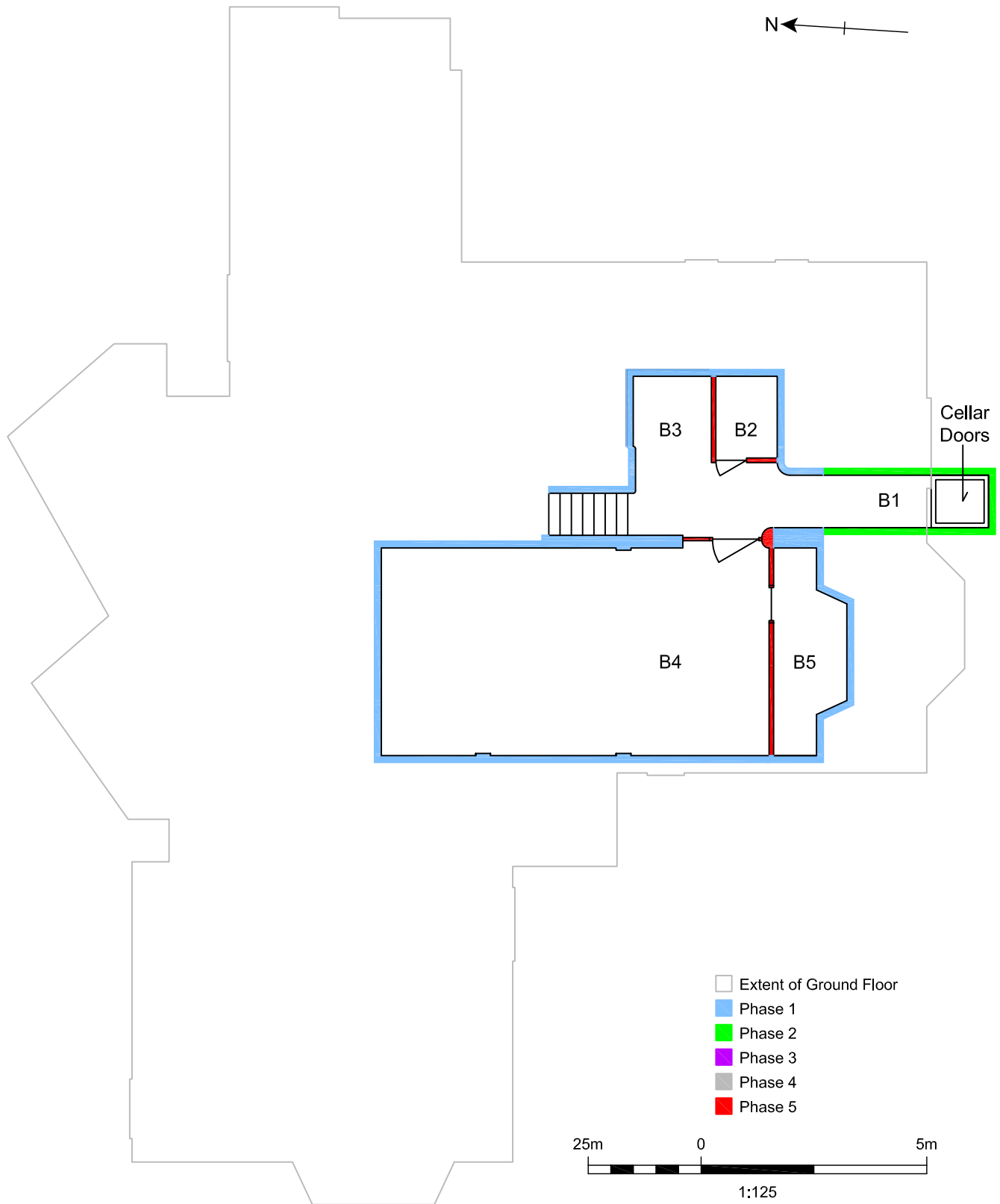


Figure 7: Basement Plan

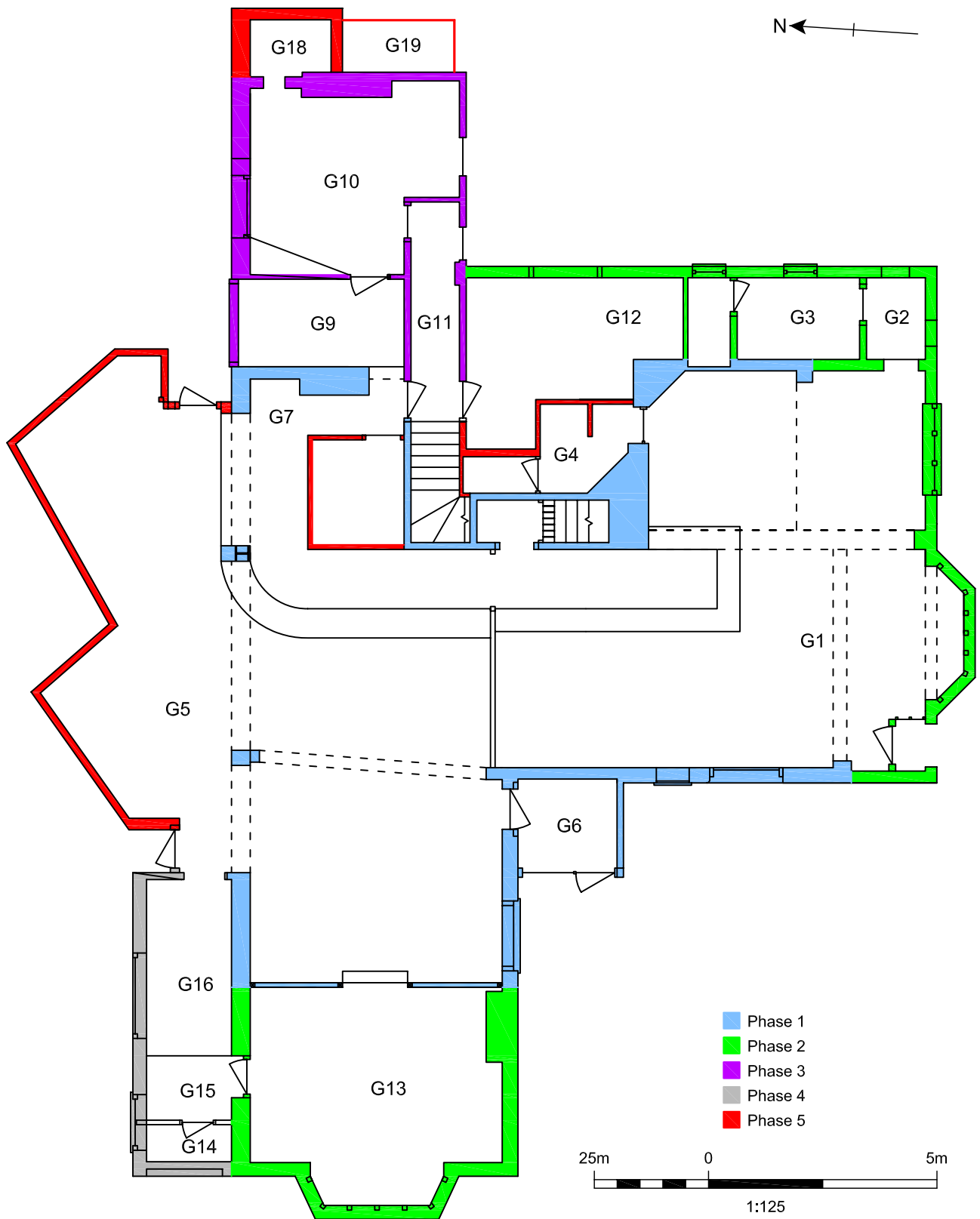


Figure 8: Ground Floor Plan

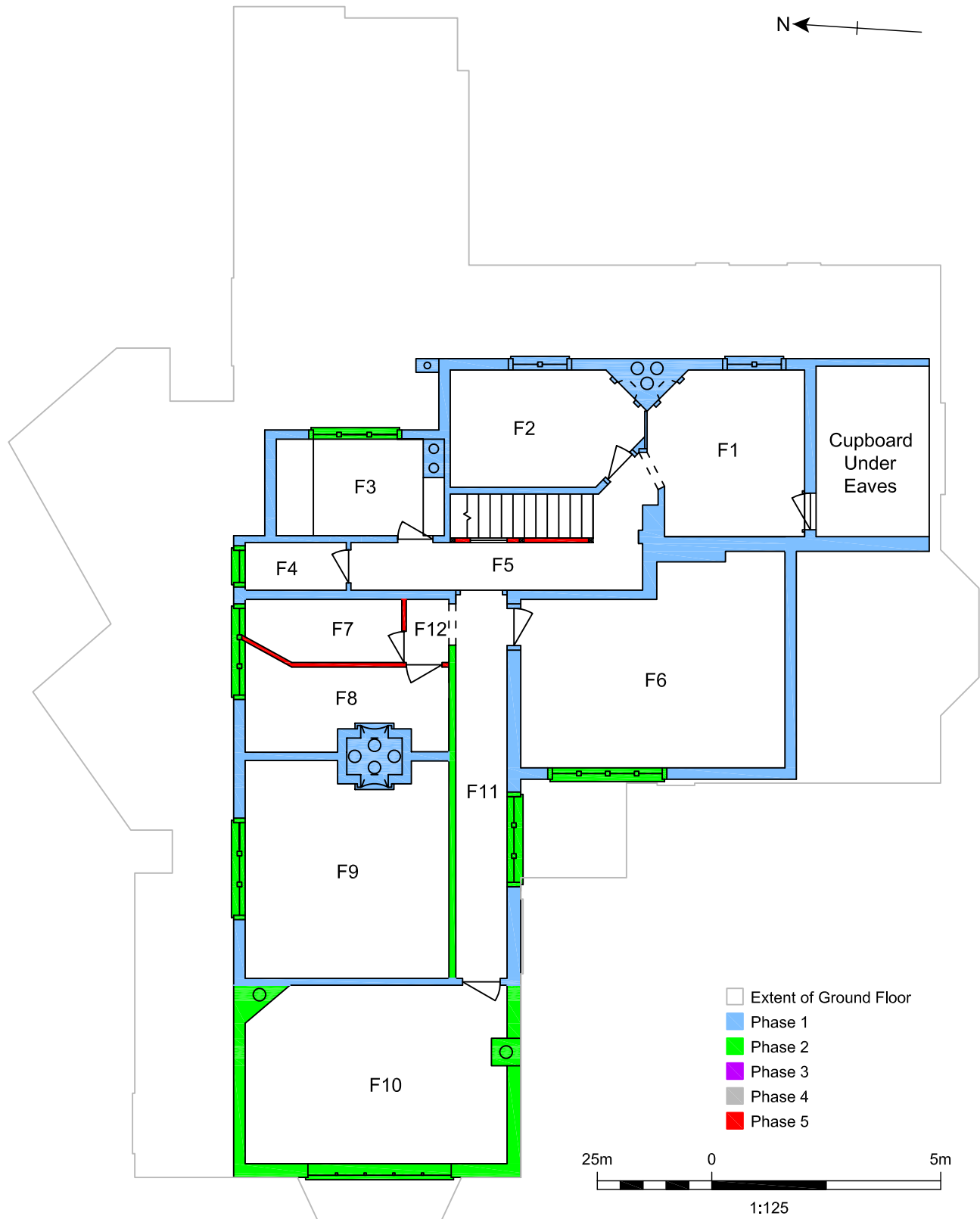


Figure 9: First Floor Plan

Appendices

Appendix A- Context Register

Context	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Findings
101	Turf and Topsoil	20.30m	2.50m	0.5m	
102	Demolition horizon	20.30m	2.50m	0.14m	Yes
103	Upper fill 106	20.30m	2.50m	0.48m	
104	Gravel deposit within 106	20.30m	2.50m	0.30m	Yes
105	Primary clayey fill of 106	20.30m	2.50m	0.10m	Yes
106	Extensive hollow/ pit	20.30m	2.50m	0.80m	
107	Yellowish brown clay	20.30m	2.50m	NFE	
108	Glazed Ceramic drain	8.60m	0.50m	1.00m	
109	Cut for 108	8.60m	0.50m	1.00m	
110	Unglazed ceramic drain	2.60m	0.50m	0.80m	
111	Cut for 110	2.60m	0.50m	0.80m	
200	Turf and Topsoil	15.00m	2.60m	0.10m	
201	Subsoil	11.60m	2.60m	0.12m	
202	Demolition horizon	15.00m	2.60m	0.28m	
203	Fill of 205	0.88m	0.82m	0.12m	Yes
204	Post	0.30m	0.20m	0.30m	
205	Post hole	0.88m	0.82m	0.48m	
206	Soakaway	1.00m	0.82m	>1.20m	
207	Cut for soakaway	1.04m	0.90m	>1.20m	
208	Backfill of soakaway	0.80m	0.80m	>1.20m	
209	Brownish yellow clay	15.00m	2.60m	NFE	
210	Post packing	0.88m	0.82m	0.32m	Yes
211	Fill of 212	2.60m	1.22m	0.64m	
212	Subsidiary part of 207	2.60m	1.22m	0.64m	
213	Organic layer, within 219	2.60m	1.70m	0.06m	
214	Unglazed ceramic drain	2.60m	0.90m	0.80m	
215	Cut for 214	2.60m	0.90m	0.80m	
216	Upper fill of 219	5.00m	2.60m	0.42m	
217	Gravel deposit within 219	3.00m	2.60m	0.21m	
218	Primary clayey fill of 219	5.00m	2.60m	0-.15m	Yes
219	Extensive hollow	5.00m	2.60m	0.65m	
301	Turf and Topsoil	11.20m	2.00m	0.21m	
302	Garden Soil	11.20m	2.00m	0.20m	
303	Root-disturbed subsoil	11.20m	2.00m	0.12m	
304	Brownish yellow Clay	11.20m	2.00m	NFE	
305	Fill of 306	0.80m	0.30m	0.20m	
306	Tree-pit	0.80m	0.30m	0.20m	
307	Drain and inspection chamber	2.00m	1.00m	>0.80m	
308	Cut for 307	1.00m	1.00m	>0.80m	

Appendix B - Finds Assessment

Paul Fitz

Introduction

A small assemblage of predominately glass and ceramic finds were collected from an evaluation at the site of 149 Ealing Road, currently a public house dating from the early twentieth century. They are assessed below.

The Glass

A demolition horizon dating to 1903 (102) yielded seven complete bottles. Five of these are 230mm high, green half-pint (10 fluid ounce) beer bottles with a sixth taller, being 270mm in height. A seventh bottle is squat, clear glass, and stamped 'MELLIN'S INFANT FOOD LONDON'. This is a powdered milk additive first produced in 1874 in the UK and USA following the earlier Leibig formula.

A clear glass jar type bottle with a metal washer ring on its neck and an indented groove all around its base was also retrieved. It has no obvious makers/use stamp (it was possibly labelled).

From the backfill of the soakaway (208) a small glass light/ lamp cover and a dark green beer bottle (265mm high) were retrieved, along with a small clear glass flask- style bottle with rounded bottom and extended neck with no collar (see below).

A small worn piece from hollow infill (218) was also collected

The Pottery

The demolition layer (102) yielded a complete English stoneware rounded storage pot (no handles) as well as five other sherds ; a pearlware plate piece, black and white and blue and white transfer printed wares as well as a coarse redware sherd with olive brown-green glaze.

From pit/hollow infill (105) came three post medieval redwares; one with olive green glaze and two with red-brown glaze. The same deposit in Trench 2 (218) had four sherds of pottery. Two blue and white transfer-printed, one English stoneware and a red-brown glazed redware, giving an 18th century or later date for the fill of the feature.

The posthole fill (203) had five sherds of relatively modern pottery; a blue and white transfer print, a caneware sherd, a small piece of dark brown stoneware and two white glazed earthenwares.

The soakaway backfill (208) had a complete stoneware 'R.WHITES' pop bottle as well as two blue and white transfer printed pieces of the same vessel.

Building Material

Building materials were retrieved from three contexts. Demolition horizon (102) had a small piece of a plain red floor tile. Hollow/pit fill (105) has two pieces of peg tile.

Tobacco Pipe

Context (203) had two bowl pieces (incomplete) and two stem pieces whilst a stem was collected from the posthole fill (203).

Animal Bone

A piece of small mammal bone was retrieved from the posthole fill (105).

Discussion/Recommendations

It would appear the majority of contexts are of nineteenth or twentieth century date. Context (105) may be earlier though without any other firm dating evidence (the tobacco pipe bowls are too incomplete) it is difficult to ascertain.

All pieces of ceramic building material are incomplete and given the relative modern nature of these contexts it is recommended they can be discarded as the lack of completeness does not warrant a table.

The glass bottles all appear to be early twentieth century in date and the amount of beer bottles is no surprise given a public house is on site. As this is a London site all complete bottles should be registered. The complete stoneware jars should be also accessioned.

All other finds can be marked and boxed to the LAARC guidelines with the following work

Appendix C - OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-75690

Project details

Project name 149 Ealing Road

Short description of the project Historic Building Recording exercise and archaeological evaluation. The Chequers Inn on the site dates to 1903, with elements of a 19th century build within. The evaluation found a large ditch or hollow of late 18th or early 19th century date,

Project dates Start: 26-04-2010 End: 30-04-2010

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project codes 09/3013 - Planning Application No. reference

Any associated project codes EIG10 - Sitecode reference

Type of project Building Recording

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Monument type PUBLIC HOUSE Post Medieval

Significant Finds BOTTLE Modern

Methods techniques & 'Measured Survey', 'Photographic Survey', 'Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England
Site location GREATER LONDON BRENT BRENT 149 Ealing Road
Postcode HA0
Study area 1980.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 1821 8413 51.5431819812 -0.295165954660 51 32 35 N 000 17 42 W Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 37.24m Max: 37.84m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation
Project originator brief English Heritage
Project originator design AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager Melissa Melikian
Type of Developer
sponsor/funding body
Name of Bugler Developments Ltd
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive Museum of London-LAARC
recipient

Physical Archive ID EIG10

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Glass'

Physical Archive notes held at AOC until transfer

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London-LAARC

Digital Archive ID EIG10

Digital Contents 'Ceramics','Glass','Stratigraphic'

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

Digital Archive notes held at AOC until transfer

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London-LAARC

Paper Archive ID EIG10

Paper Contents 'Ceramics','Glass'

Paper Media available 'Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text','Context sheet'

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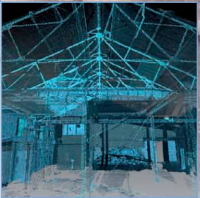
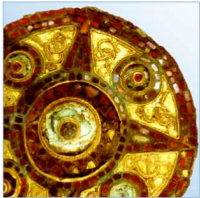
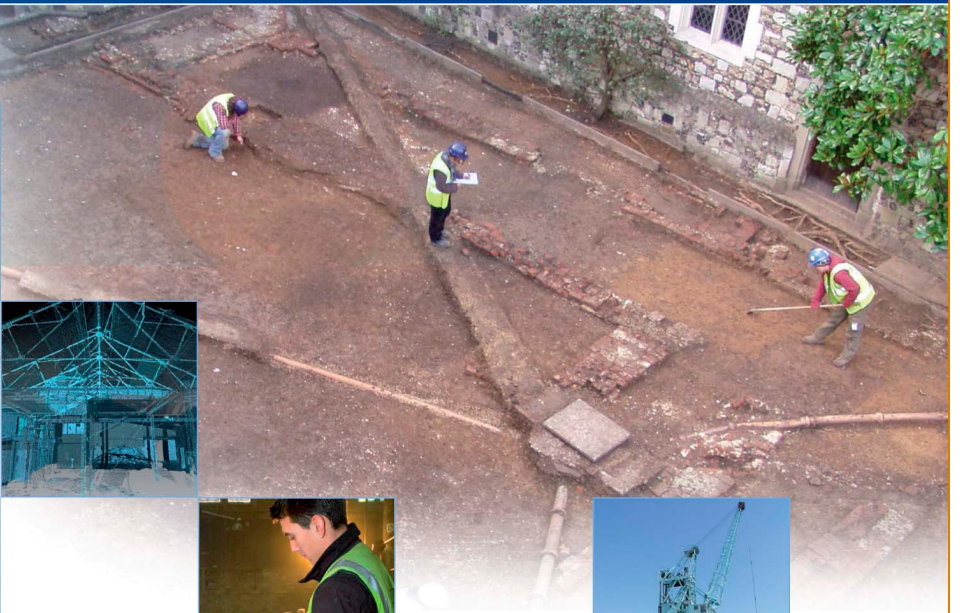
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