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**ST. MARTINS ESTATE,
TULSE HILL,
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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Non Technical Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by HTA Architects (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at St. Martins Estate, Roupell Road, Tulse Hill, London Borough of Lambeth (the Site) centred on NGR 530871/173400.

The evaluation comprised of four 2.2m x 4m trenches. Three trenches were excavated to the north of Roupell Road (Area A) and one was excavated to the south of Roupell Road (Area B).

The report concludes that the Site has been subject to significant modern disturbance and truncation as a result of the construction of Tillman House and subsequent landscaping of the area. The construction of the former Council Offices on Site had also significantly disturbed the Site.

No significant archaeological deposits, structures or artefacts were uncovered during the evaluation.

The evaluation produced no evidence of activity associated with the Early Saxon site at Upper Tulse Hill School.

Although the evaluation found that a prominent mound in Area A was man made. It also showed that it was essentially modern in date. The mound was seen to be made up of layers modern dumping, which appear to been laid down during the construction of Tillman House and subsequent landscaping of the area.

Undisturbed geological deposits comprising yellowish orange sandy clays were encountered in all four trenches at a height of between 53.77m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and 52.92m aOD.

The lack of archaeological remains or artefacts uncovered during the evaluation, suggest that little or no significant archaeological remains are present within the proposed development area.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank; James Fowler of HAT Architects for commissioning the project. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Suzanne Gailey and Barry Taylor of English Heritages Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) for monitoring the work. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology (London) by Rueben Thorpe (Project Manager). The fieldwork was carried out by Rueben Thorpe and Gary Evans (Project Officer). Gary Evans prepared the overall report and Mark Roughly prepared the illustrations.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of land at the site of the former Estate Offices St. Martins Estate, Roupell Road, Tulse Hill in the London Borough of Lambeth (the Site) centred on NGR 530871/173400 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The evaluation was commissioned by HTA Architects (the Client) and took place from 1st – 2nd February 2005.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in fulfilment of an archaeological condition on planning consent (0400311/FUL/DC_SWE and 04/00307/FUL/DC_SWE).

1.2.2 The proximity of the Site, to a known Early Saxon site led the Archaeological Advisor (AA) of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) to recommend that an intrusive archaeological evaluation be undertaken prior to development. The purpose of the evaluation was to help determine the need for mitigation of archaeological deposits in advance of the proposed development.

1.2.3 The evaluation and preparation of this report have been undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, which was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2005 report 58990.01) and approved by GLAAS.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Location

2.1.1 The Site consisted of two areas (Areas A and B) separated by Roupell Road. Area A, which was previously occupied by a single story pre-fabricated building, lay to the north of Roupell Road. Area A was roughly triangular in shape and was surrounded on three sides by a public open space, mostly set out as grass but with some mature trees. It was bordered to the north, by a block of 1960's high rise residential dwellings (Tillman House) (**Figure 1**).

2.1.2 Area B, which was roughly rectangular in shape, lay to the south of Roupell Road. It was bordered to the south and west by housing and to the east by a footpath which links Roupell Road with Gaywood Close (**Figure 1**).

2.1.3 The total area of the Site was 0.179 hectares.

2.2 The Site Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The underlying geology of the area comprises; Head Silts, Sand and Clay with Gravels over London Clay (British Geological Survey, Sheet 270).

2.2.2 During an initial site visit by Wessex Archaeology, it was observed that Area A lay at the summit of a distinct mound. The top of this mound was at

54.24m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). A marked rise and a distinct break of slope were clearly seen in the northeastern half of the Site.

- 2.2.3 Area B was slightly higher than Area A and was also more level. The ground level on this part of the Site was 54.36m aOD.

2.3 Archaeological Background

- 2.3.1 Aside from Lower/Middle Palaeolithic (500,000-12,000 BC) flint flakes, uncovered in Brockwell Park (NGR 531700/174100) and Trinity Rise (NGR 521500/173500) (Museum of London 2000, p. 42 and map 1). The earliest evidence for settlement in the area comes from Upper Tulse Hill School (NGR 531000/173500) where eight sunken floored buildings, dating to the early Saxon period (AD 419-650), were discovered in the 1990's (Museum of London, 2000, p. 204 and map 8).
- 2.3.2 Originally part of the Manors of Bodley, Upgrove and Scarlettes, Tulse Hill was named after the Tulse family, who held the Manor from the time of the Commonwealth to 1789 (Wienreb and Hibbert, 1983, p. 919).
- 2.3.3 The site of Bodley Manor house (AD 1202) is known and lies to the north of the Site, at NGR 531300/173350 (Museum of London, 2000, p. 249 and map 12).
- 2.3.4 The area was farmland until well into the 19th century. When it was developed as a prosperous suburban district, with many substantial houses and estates. Some of which still survive, to the east of the Site in Upper Tulse Hill Road.

3 PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The aims of the intrusive evaluation were to:
- Characterise the nature, date, extent and state of preservation of underlying archaeological deposits.
 - Identify the depth of burial (and thus the depth of sensitivity) of any underlying archaeological deposits or features.

More specifically the evaluation sought to:

- Establish the degree, if any, of activity associated with the Early Anglo Saxon settlement at Upper Tulse Hill School on Site.
- Clarify the nature, date and function of the mound and the break of slope seen in Area A.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The Evaluation

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork strategy is described in detail in the Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 2005 Ref: 58990.01). In summary the evaluation comprised the machine excavation of, four 4m x 2.2m trenches which together encompassed some 35.20 m² of the proposed development area.

4.1.2 Three trenches (Trenches 1-3) were located to the north of Roupell Road (Area A) One trench (Trench 4) was located to the south of Roupell Road (Area B).

4.1.3 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, arrangements were be made with the Museum of London for deposition of the archive and finds, and a Museum of London Site code was allotted (RMS 05).

4.2 Fieldwork

5.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the prescriptions of the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (1999).

4.2.2 Trenches were located on the ground using tapes from known landmarks and features present on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (eg. boundaries or buildings).

4.2.3 Overburden was stripped using a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless grading bucket. This took place under the constant supervision of a competent archaeologist.

4.2.4 All spoil was scanned for finds.

4.2.5 Machining continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the underlying natural strata.

4.2.6 Once archaeological deposits were exposed they were cleaned by hand.

4.2.7 Further excavation of archaeological features and deposits were then undertaken by hand or machine as was deemed appropriate. Hand excavation of features was sufficient only to date and characterise the deposits.

4.2.8 Excavation and sampling were sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the excavation.

4.2.9 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded utilising Wessex Archaeology's standardised context recording system.

4.2.10 A complete drawn and photographic record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 or 1:50 for plans, 1:10 or 1:20 for sections). The heights of all principal features were expressed in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.

4.2.11 A photographic record was also compiled including digital images, colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film).

4.2.12 The trenches were backfilled with the agreement of the AA of GLAAS.

4.3 Health and Safety

4.3.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times.

4.3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992 and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

- 4.3.3 Wessex Archaeology prepared a Health and Safety Risk Assessment. Which was reviewed as the project progressed.
- 4.3.4 As part of the Project Briefing all staff were be made aware of their responsibilities and site specific hazards (identified under the Risk Assessment).

4.4 Finds Collection and Retention

- 4.4.1 All collected finds were treated in accordance with the principles and practices set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993), Medieval Pottery Research Group (2001) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (1999).
- 4.4.2 Where features or deposits were clearly modern, finds were examined, noted and discarded.

5 ARCHIVE

- 5.1.1 The completed project archive will be prepared in accordance with *the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990).
- 5.1.2 The resulting archive will be microfiched to the standards accepted by the National Monuments Record (NMR).
- 5.1.3 One copy will be deposited with the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (SMR); a further copy will be deposited with the NMR.
- 5.1.4 The archive from the project, subject to the wishes of the landowner, will be deposited with the Museum of London.
- 5.1.5 Details of the evaluation will be entered into the online 'Oasis' database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

6 RESULTS

- 6.1.1 The results of the evaluation trenches are presented below, with a more detailed description contained in **Appendix 1**. Full cross referenced site records are contained in the site archive.

6.2 Trench 1.

- 6.2.1 Excavated at the southwest corner of Area A, in a part of the Site that formerly lay beneath the recently demolished Council Offices. This trench was 2.2m x 4m and was orientated northeast - southwest (**Figure 1**).
- 6.2.2 This part of the Site had been partly truncated by modern works, associated with the construction of the former Council Offices. Most of the deposits observed in Trench 1 were either modern or had been heavily disturbed.
- 6.2.3 Natural geological deposits (**103**) of sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles were uncovered at a depth of 0.70m below the present ground level (53.25m aOD).
- 6.2.4 A 200mm thick layer of mid greyish brown sandy (**102**) which contained moderate amounts of small to medium red brick fragments, lay directly

above the Natural clay (**103**). This deposit represented the disturbed sub soil on this part of the Site.

6.2.5 A very compact, mid grey brown, fine sandy clay silt which contained frequent fragments of brick and mortar (**101**) represents the disturbed topsoil on this part of the Site.

6.2.6 No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in this Trench.

6.3 Trench 2.

6.3.1 Excavated at the northeast corner Area A. This trench was 2.2m x 4m and ran northeast - southwest (**Figure 1**).

6.3.2 A concrete drain and other works [**203**] associated with the former Council Offices had truncated a large part of the Trench.

6.3.3 Most of the deposits observed in Trench 2, were either modern or had been heavily disturbed. Most appear to be associated with the construction of the now demolished Council Offices or Tillman House.

6.3.4 Natural geological deposits (**212**) comprising sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles were uncovered at a depth of 1.19m below the present ground level (53.01m aOD).

6.3.5 A series of grey brown deposits (**211, 210**) comprising silty sands with charcoal flecks and occasional fragments of modern white Bone China overlay the Natural clay. These represent the disturbed sub soil and topsoil in this part of the Site.

6.3.6 These deposits were cut by shallow cut [**213**] whose fill (**208**) contained fragments of flowerpot.

6.3.7 Deposit (**210**) was sealed by a series of deposits (**209**) (**206**) and (**205**). These sandy silts contained frequent fragments of ash, charcoal, coal, red bricks and London stock bricks. These layers appear to represent modern dumps, possibly associated with the construction of the nearby Tillman House.

6.3.8 The latest deposit observed in this part of the Site was a sandy silt (**201**) containing frequent small modern brick fragments. This formed the modern topsoil on Site and appears to have been laid down during the landscaping of the Site in the 1960's and 1970's.

6.3.9 No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were uncovered in this part of the Site.

6.4 Trench 3.

6.4.1 Excavated at the northwest corner of Area A. This trench was 2.2m x 4m and ran northwest – southeast (**Figure 1**).

6.4.2 Natural geological deposits (**303**) comprised sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles were uncovered at a depth of around 1.30m below the present ground level (53.25m aOD).

6.4.3 Directly above the natural geology a layer of mid greenish grey fine sandy silt (**307**) with occasional inclusions of red brick and charcoal, represented the disturbed former topsoil in this part of the Site.

- 6.4.4 The former topsoil (307) was sealed by a series of sandy clayey silt deposits which contained frequent inclusions of coal, red brick, London Stock brick and grey mortar as well as occasional fragments of oyster shell (306) (305) (304) (303) and (302). These sloped down from south to north and appear to represent modern dumps possibly associated with the construction of nearby Tillman House.
- 6.4.5 The present topsoil in Trench 3, was the same homogenous, grey sandy silt found elsewhere on Site. This appears to have been laid down during the landscaping of the Site in the 1960's and 1970's.
- 6.4.6 Again no significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were uncovered in this Trench.

6.5 Trench 4.

- 6.5.1 The only Trench excavated in Area B, this Trench was 4m x 2.2m and ran northeast – southwest (**Figure 1**).
- 6.5.2 This part of the Site had been very truncated by modern works, probably associated with the construction of the adjacent flats. Most of the deposits observed in Trench 4 were either modern or had been heavily disturbed.
- 6.5.3 The Natural geology on this part of the Site was fine sandy clay with occasional small to medium rounded flint pebbles. This deposit (407) was uncovered at a depth of around 0.70m below the present ground level (53.77m aOD).
- 6.5.4 A 100mm thick deposit of brown sandy silty clay lay directly above (407). This deposit, which due to modern water logging, from a near by drain, became greyish blue in the western half of the Trench, represented the remains of the sub soil or former topsoil on this part of the Site. This deposit contained occasional flecks of charcoal throughout, as well as occasional fragments of wooden planks, indicating that it had been heavily disturbed in modern times.
- 6.5.5 Deposit (406) was sealed by a layer of modern building/demolition rubble (405) that was made up of frequent medium fragments of red frogged bricks, London Stock bricks and grey mortar.
- 6.5.6 A levelling layer of ashy clinker (403) along with a white mortar bedding layer (402) and a modern brick surface (401) were the latest deposits observed in Trench 4.
- 6.5.7 No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were uncovered in this trench

7 THE FINDS

- 7.1.1 Aside from several fragments of modern flower pots and several shards of modern bone China, no finds were recovered during the evaluation.

8 ENVIROMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 8.1.1 Due to the absence of any suitable deposits, no samples were taken for environmental analysis.

9 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 9.1.1 No significant archaeological deposits, structures or artefacts were uncovered during the evaluation.
- 9.1.2 The results of the evaluation indicate that the Site has been subject to significant modern disturbance and truncation as a result of the construction of Tillman House and subsequent landscaping of the area. The construction of the former Council Offices on Site had also significantly disturbed the Site.
- 9.1.3 Although the evaluation found that the mound in Area A was indeed man made. It also showed that it was essentially modern in date. The mound appeared to be mostly built from layers of modern dumping. These were almost certainly part of the spoil thrown up during the construction of Tillman House and from the subsequent landscaping of the area in the 1960s and 1970s.
- 9.1.4 The evaluation produced no evidence of activity associated with the early Saxon site at Upper Tulse Hill School.
- 9.1.5 Evidence of former topsoil was uncovered in all of the trenches. This had been disturbed by modern pits and was sealed by layers of modern dumps.
- 9.1.6 The present topsoil on Site appears to have been lain down during modern landscaping of the area.
- 9.1.7 Natural geological deposits, comprising sandy clay with rounded pebbles, were observed in all of the trenches. This lay at between 1.30m (Trench 3) and 0.50m (Trench 4) below the present ground surface.
- 9.1.8 The lack of archaeological remains or artefacts uncovered during the evaluation suggests that little or no significant archaeological remains are present within the proposed development area.

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APPENDIX 1:TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES

(+)Indicates deposits features not fully excavated

Trench 1

Orientation: Northeast - Southwest

Size: (L/W/D) 4.m x 2.2m x 0.95m

| Context No | Interpretative/processual keyword | Type | Description | Height aOD |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---|------------|
| 101 | Modern Topsoil/cultivation/ | Deposit | Compact homogenous, dark to mid grey, fine sandy clay silt. Frequent small to medium fragments of red brick and yellow London Stock brick throughout. Occasional small fragments white mortar throughout. | 53.95m |
| 102 | Sub soil./cultivation | Deposit | Mid greyish brown, fine sandy clay silt. Moderate fragments small to medium red throughout. | 53.35m |
| 103 | Natural | Deposit | Mid to light yellowish orange, sandy clay with occasional sub rounded to well rounded small to medium flint pebbles. | 53.00m (+) |

Trench 2**Orientation:** Northeast – Southwest**Size:** (L/W/D) 4m x 2.2m x 1.20m

| Context No | Interpretative/procesual keywords | Type | Description | Height aOD |
|------------|---|---------|---|---------------------------|
| 201 | Modern topsoil/cultivation/construction | Deposit | Homogenous, dark to mid grey, fine sandy clay silt. Frequent small to medium fragments of red brick and yellow London Stock brick. | 54.20m |
| 202 | Pit/use/disuse | Deposit | Fill of 203 . Loose dark grey loose sandy clay silt Frequent small to medium fragments of red brick and yellow London Stock brick. | Top=53.62m Base=52.90m |
| 203 | Pit/ ditch/construction | Cut | Modern cut Vertical straight sides. Flat base. Break of slope at top and base sharp. | Top=53.62m Base=52.95m |
| 204 | Fill/use disuse | Deposit | Friable red burnt clay. | Top=53.70m Base 53.00m |
| 205 | Dump/ use/disuse/construction | Deposit | Light yellowish brown clayey sand. | 53.62m |
| 206 | Dump/ use/disuse/construction | Deposit | Dark greyish brown sandy silt Occasional small to medium fragments red brick and yellow London stock brick throughout Occasional to moderate Small fragments of unburned coal throughout. | 53.52m |
| 207 | Fill/use/ disuse | Deposit | Mid greyish brown sandy silt frequent small patches of light brown grey, clay. | Top=53.70m Base=53.00m |
| 208 | Dump/use/disuse/construction | Deposit | Fill Mid greenish brown silty sand frequent flecks charcoal throughout.. | 53.40m |
| 209 | Dump/ use/disuse/construction | Deposit | Very dark grey sandy silt. Frequent ash and coal fragments.. | 53.50m |
| 210 | Former topsoil/cultivation | Deposit | Mid greyish brown, silty sand with clay mottling. | 53.20m |
| 211 | Former subsoil/cultivation/ | Deposit | Mid greyish brown silty sand Occasional small fragments charcoal throughout Occasional small fragments of white bone china. | 53.15m |
| 212 | Natural | Deposit | Mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional sub rounded to well rounded small to medium flint pebbles. | 53.01m (+) |
| 213 | Pit/ditch construction | Cut | Vertical sided flat base | Top=53.70m Base 53.00m |

Trench 3

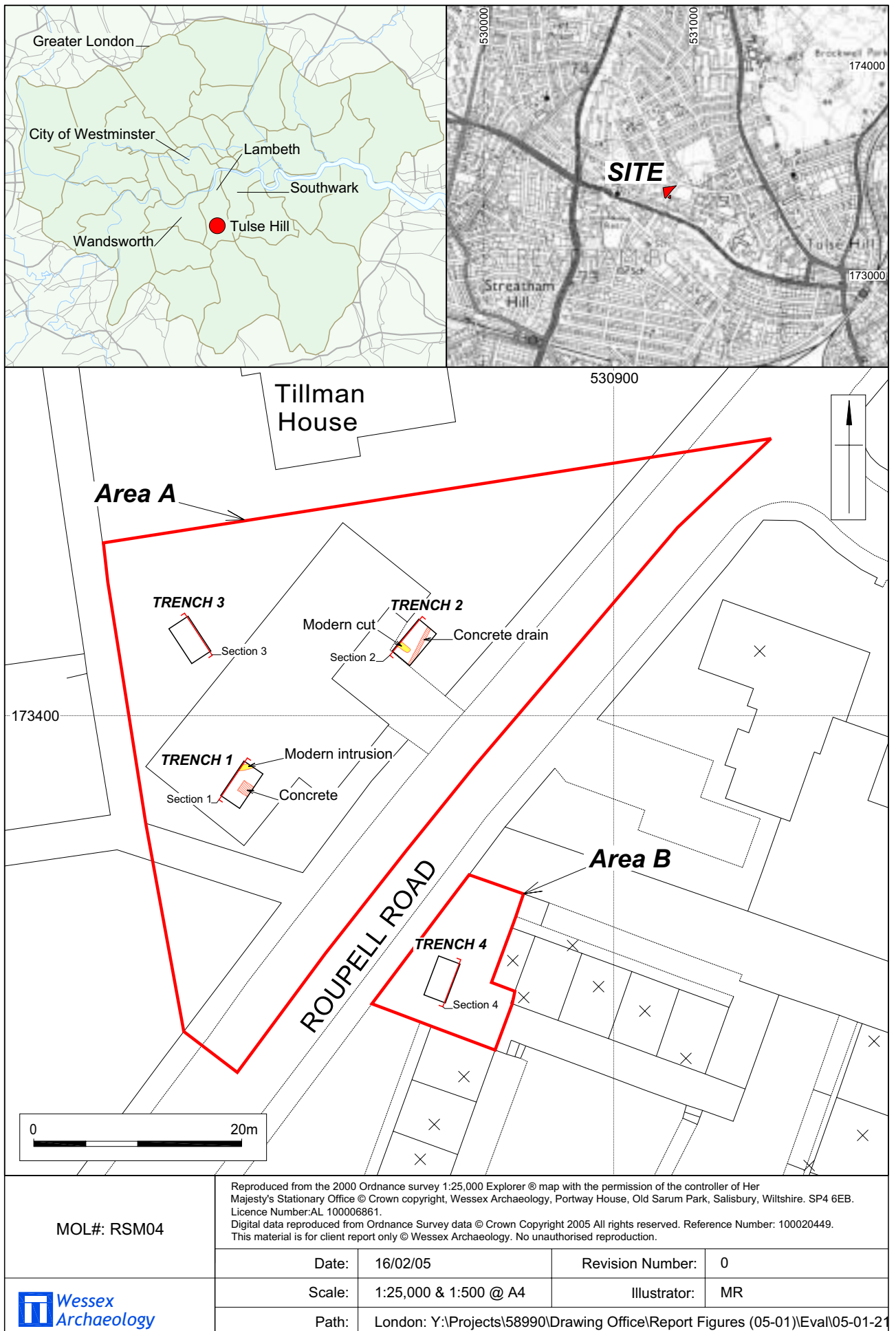
Orientation: Northwest - Southeast

Size: (L/W/D) 4m x 2m x 1.30m

| Context No | Interpretative/processual keyword | Type | Description | Height aOD |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---|------------|
| 301 | Modern Topsoil/ | Deposit | Friable homogenous, dark grey, fine sandy silt with occasional small well rounded flint pebbles. Frequent tree root disturbance | 54.22m |
| 302 | Dump/construction | Deposit | Loose, mid grey brown, fine sandy clay silt mixed with light grey mortar. Frequent small to medium fragments red brick and yellow London Stock brick throughout. In the western section, this deposit was thinner (40mm thick) it also contained less brick fragments but a greater % of grey mortar. | 53.72m |
| 303 | Dump/construction | Deposit | Friable, very dark greyish brown, sandy silt. Occasional small sub rounded flint pebbles throughout. Occasional small to medium red brick fragments throughout. Occasional small fragments red roof tile, small fragments charcoal and coal throughout | 53.72m |
| 304 | Dump/construction | Deposit | Friable mid greenish grey brown, sandy silt. Occasional thin (20mm thick)) lens of loose ashy charcoal throughout. | 53.22m |
| 305 | Dump/construction | Deposit | Friable mid greenish grey brown, fine sandy clay silt. Frequent small fragments white/light grey sandy mortar throughout. Moderate small fragments charcoal, ash, unbent coal throughout. Very occasional small fragments of oyster shell. | 53.52m |
| 306 | Dump/construction | Deposit | Firm yellowish brown, silty clay. Occasional small sub rounded pebbles throughout | 53.32m |
| 307 | Former topsoil/cultivation | Deposit | Friable to firm mid greenish grey fine sandy silt Occasional small fragments Charcoal throughout Occasion small crushed fragments red brick throughout | 53.32 |
| 308 | Natural | Deposit | Mid yellowish orange sandy clay with moderate sub rounded to well rounded small to medium flint pebbles | 52.92m (+) |

Trench 4**Orientation:** Northeast – Southwest**Size:** (L/W/D) 4m x 2.2m x 0.60m

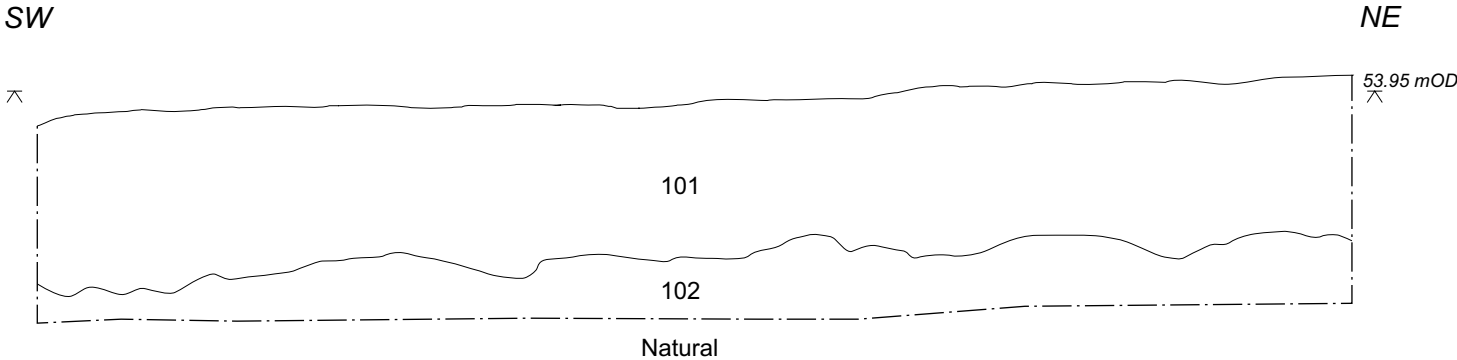
| Context No | Interpretative/processual keyword | Type | Description | Height aOD (+/- 50mm) |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--|-----------------------|
| 401 | Structure/construction | Deposit | Modern surface. Hard red brick laid on bed. | 54.33m |
| 402 | Structure/construction | Deposit | Bedding layer for brick surface. Loose, white mortar. | 54.18m |
| 403 | Structure/construction | Deposit | Levelling layer. Loose clinker, unburned coal and slag. | 54.13m |
| 404 | Structure/construction | Deposit | Levelling layer. Light grey clay, frequent small fragments red and yellow London Stock brick. | 54.08m |
| 405 | Structure/demolition | Deposit | Rubble levelling layer. . Frequent small to medium fragments of red brick and yellow London Stock brick Occasional small fragments roofing slate. Within a light grey, coarse sandy mortar matrix. | 54.03m |
| 406 | Former topsoil/cultivation | Deposit | Mid greyish yellow, fine sandy clay becoming mid bluish grey within 100mm of base at western end of trench. | 53.97m |
| 407 | Natural | Deposit | Mid orange brown, sandy clay with occasional sub rounded to well rounded small to medium flint pebbles throughout. | 53.77m |



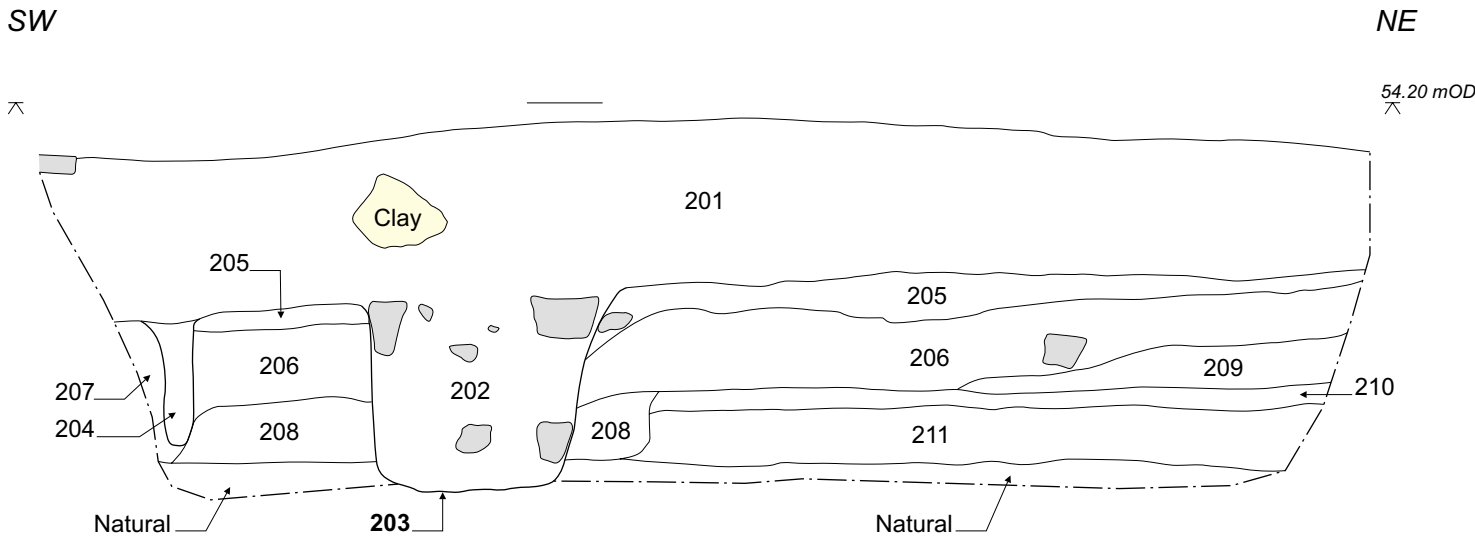
Site Location Map showing Location of Trenches and Modern Disturbance

Figure 1

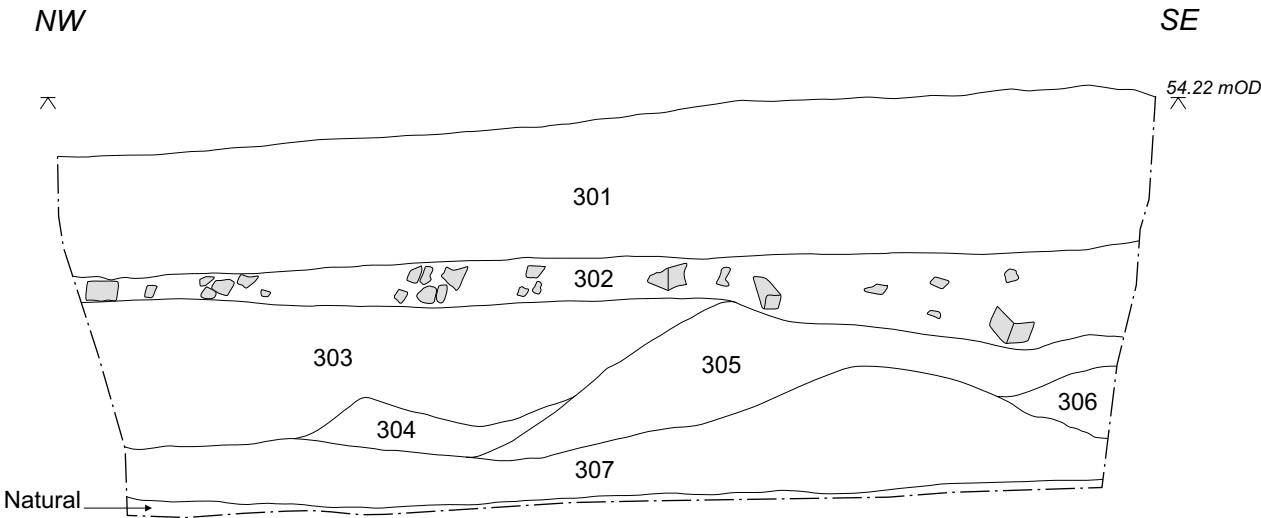
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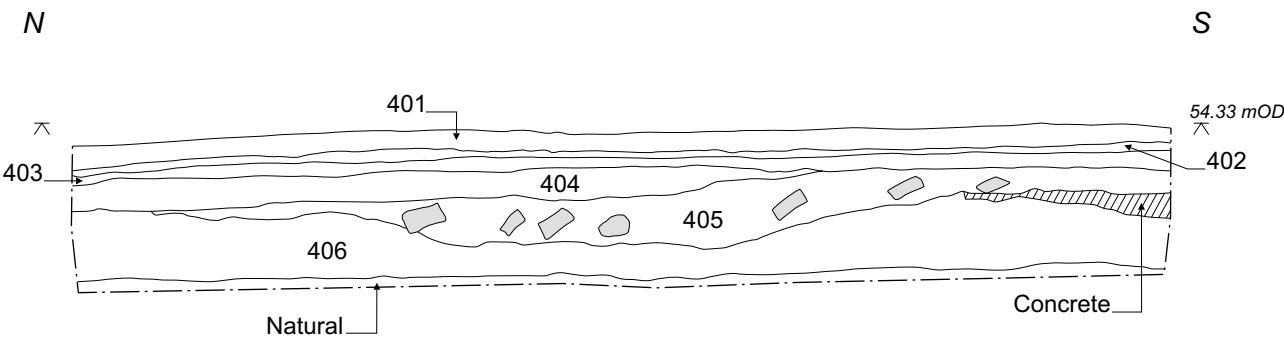
SECTION 2
SW



SECTION 3
NW



SECTION 4
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