



HERITAGE NETWORK



**22-24 LINCOLN ROAD,
Enfield**

(HN452)

Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

22-24 LINCOLN ROAD,
Enfield, Middlesex
TQ 3330 9607

HN452
LCN04

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Caraland Ltd

by

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The cover photo shows the study area from the south

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Robin Densem assisted by Jill Hooper, Dan Barnes and Robert Scott. The report text and illustrations were prepared by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Caraland Ltd and to Kim Stabler, English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	22-24 Lincoln Road, Enfield, Middlesex		
County:	Greater London	District:	Borough of Enfield
Village/town:	Enfield Town	Parish:	Enfield
Planning reference:	TP/02/02028	NGR:	TQ 3330 9607
Client name:	Caraland Ltd c/o Wakefield Poyser Partnership, Stanstead Abbots, SG12 8HG		
Nature of work:	New development	Present land use:	Vacant building and yard
Size of affected area:	643m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.30m ²
Site Code:	LCN04	Heritage Network ref.:	HN452
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Evaluation	Curating Museum:	Museum of London
Start of work	10/03/2004	Finish of work	13/03/2004
Related HER Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Roman, Med., Victorian
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by an application to develop land at 22-24 Lincoln Road, Enfield, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation.

Two evaluation trenches were excavated towards the front of the site. Trench 1 contained two parallel linear ditches, aligned north north-east to south south-west, lying approximately at right angles to Lincoln Road along the south side of the site. One of the ditches contained dating evidence in the form of Roman pottery and it was overlain by a subsoil that also contained a few sherds of medieval pottery. Trench 2 had been heavily disturbed in the mid 19th century by the construction of a culvert, probably associated with a former sewage works.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of Caraland Ltd, as the archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site on land to Lincoln Road, Enfield, Middlesex. Planning consent for the development had been granted by the London Borough of Enfield (ref. TP/02/02028) subject to a standard archaeological planning condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with the provisions set out in the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance Note no.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning. The scope of the required work was defined in consultation with staff at the English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (English Heritage ref. LAG/10/169), and detailed in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design* dated February 2004.

1.2 The study area focuses on a former Council depot fronting on to Lincoln Road and extending northwards to meet the Liverpool Street to Enfield Town railway, centred on NGR TQ 3330 9607 (see Figure 1). The development proposes the construction of a block of flats with associated car parking.

1.3 The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Importance, as defined in the London Borough of Enfield's *Unitary Development Plan*. This encompasses the dispersed Romano-British settlement at Enfield that grew up along the line of Ermine Street. The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record shows that Roman material has been uncovered in the vicinity of the study area, including cremation and inhumation burials in the area of Waddington Close (130m to the north), and residual Roman ceramics in Burleigh Road (c.100m to the north-east).

1.4 The present evaluation report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further, if any, mitigation measures may be required should the development proceed. The London Borough of Enfield's nominated advisor on archaeology is English Heritage.

2.Site Background

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area is situated on relatively level ground, around the 26m contour, that rises gently from the south.

2.2 The British Geological Survey map of 1993 shows the site as lying on Enfield Silt, which consists of brickearth, sandy clay and silt overlying Kempton Park Gravel (British Geological Survey, 1993).

2.3 Examination of post-medieval cartographic evidence, including Rocque's Map of Middlesex of 1754 and the 1803 Enfield Enclosure Map, suggests that the site remained open land at least until the early 19th century.

2.4 The site may have contained all, or part of, a short-lived sewage treatment plant that was built around 1850 and that had been demolished before the Ordnance Survey 25" scale map of 1869 was made (Graham Dalling, London Borough of Enfield Local History Officer, pers. comm.). The small structures shown on the 1869 OS map may be the remnants of the former sewage plant complex.

2.5 The study area presently consists of a concrete surfaced yard around a rectangular two-storey brick built former depot building, of late nineteenth or early twentieth century date. This is not shown on the 25" Ordnance Survey map of 1896, but appears on the edition of 1914. An electricity sub-station building was constructed on the frontage between 1914 and 1935.

3. Fieldwork

METHODOLOGY

3.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation, and in consultation with English Heritage.

3.2 The trenches were excavated under close archaeological supervision using a JCB excavator, fitted with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

3.3 The trenches were cleaned by hand, and where appropriate, potential archaeological features encountered were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date and quality of preservation.

3.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the methodology contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, and followed the procedures set out in the Heritage Network's *Operations Manual*.

RESULTS

3.5 Two trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed development (see Figure 2). It appears that Trench 1 lay outside the area of disturbance caused by the construction of a culvert in the mid 19th century and revealed a dissimilar stratigraphy to that in Trench 2.

3.6 Medieval and later archaeological deposits survived in Trench 1, overlying and cut into the natural brickearth, which appeared at a depth of c. 0.8m below the present ground surface. The brickearth overlay natural gravel, which was located at a depth of c.1.6m below the present surface.

3.7 Any early archaeological deposits in Trench 2 appear to have been removed in the 19th century by a large and deep excavation for a red brick structure. This was encountered at a depth of c.2.8m. Only the top of the structure was revealed as the depth of excavation prevented any detailed work being undertaken. It has been interpreted as the top of a late nineteenth century culvert, which may have been related to the short-lived sewage works of c.1850.

3.8 Live services were present in both trenches, and the modern ground surface consisted of a layer of late twentieth century steel-reinforced concrete, c.0.2m in depth.

Trench 1

3.9 Trench 1 measured 9.8m in length and 1.6m in width. It ran parallel to the western boundary in the south-western corner of the proposed development area and was aligned north north-east – south south –west, at right-angles to the line of Lincoln Road.

3.10 The stratigraphy consisted of a layer of natural gravel, context (116), overlain by a layer of sterile natural brickearth, context (110). This was cut by two roughly parallel ditches, both aligned north-east to south-west (see Figure 3). Each contained an individual grey clay/silt waterlain fill.

3.11 The eastern ditch, cut [101], was revealed for a length of c.5.5m and measured 0.85m wide and 0.7m deep. The base of the ditch was flat and fairly level. The single fill, context (102), consisted of clean waterlain grey clay/silt, with very occasional small flecks of charcoal, which contained a few sherds of unglazed pottery.

3.12 The western ditch, cut [103]/[119], was a little narrower and shallower, measuring approximately 0.55m wide and approximately 0.45m deep, and this was traced for a length of some 5m. It contained a single fill (104)/(118), which was similar in nature to that in ditch [101]. No finds were recovered from this fill.

3.13 Fill (102) of eastern ditch [101] was overlain by context (109) a layer of mid brown-grey and orange brown clay/silt with sand, approximately 0.30m in depth. This contained a few sherds of pottery, including a late medieval glazed sherd. It has been interpreted as a subsoil, possibly representing a buried agricultural soil horizon, which also appears to be disturbed by natural processes.

3.14 The subsoil was overlain by a layer of what has been interpreted as a garden, agricultural or horticultural earth (108), consisting of a grey clay/silt with sand which varied in depth between c.0.20m and 0.10m. Despite careful investigation, no finds were recovered from this deposit, so its date remains uncertain.

3.15 A large irregular feature, cut [117], which measured at least 0.65m in depth and over 1.5m east-west by more than 1.9m north-south, had been dug into the subsoil layer (109). It contained two very clean waterlain fills, contexts (111) and (112). The lower fill (111) measured approximately 0.60m in width and 0.10m in depth. It consisted of a mid brown-grey clay/silt with a slight decayed organic content. Most of this appeared to have been removed by possible later re-cutting. The upper fill (112) varied in depth between c.0.20m and 0.60m. It consisted of a very pale buff-grey clay/silt with sand, containing very occasional small charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from either fill. The function of the feature is unknown. It may have been dug as a quarry and then, perhaps, left open to silt up naturally.

3.16 The upper fill (112) of feature [117] was overlain by context (107), a thin layer, of dumped post-medieval earth, approximately 0.06m in depth, that contained burnt coal and pottery, of nineteenth century date. This has been interpreted as possible waste from domestic fires in nearby houses.

3.17 Layer (107) was cut by trench [113], which had been dug to receive the late twentieth century drain or soil pipe (115). This may still be in use, taking waste eastwards from 22 Lincoln Road, immediately to the west of the site. The pipe was overlain by a late twentieth century make-up layer, context (106), which underlay the modern ground surface in the vicinity of the trench, context (105), a c.0.2m thick reinforced concrete slab.

Trench 2

3.18 Trench 2 measured 5.0m in length and 1.7m in width. It was aligned east-west and was located in the undercroft area of the proposed development.

3.19 A layer of yellow sand and gravel, context (206), which contained brick fragments was observed in the base of the trench at a depth of 2.90m below the modern surface. This may represent the top of the natural sequence, but is more likely to have been a lower layer of backfill dumped against the western and eastern sides of a north-south aligned mortared red brick structure, context (205), that ran across the width of the trench (see Figure 3).

3.20 The brickwork of structure (205) measured approximately 0.80m in width and apparently had a flat surface. It was dated to the later nineteenth century on the basis of visual inspection from the top of the trench, which was too deep to enter safely. Only the top c.0.10m of the brick-built structure, which has been interpreted as a culvert, was revealed as there was a risk that the feature may have been still in use and deeper excavation may have damaged the structure. It is possible that the postulated culvert was associated with the short lived mid 19th century sewage treatment plant thought to have existed on the site.

3.21 The possible culvert and layer (206) were overlain by context (204), a c.2.2m thick series of dumped lenses of grey clay/silt which contained nineteenth century pottery sherds and brick fragments. This has been interpreted as the construction backfill for culvert (205).

3.22 Deposit (203) overlay context (204) and was observed at a depth of 0.55m below the present ground surface. This was a dumped layer, 0.30m in depth, that was cut by two modern black plastic encased cables, c.0.03m diameter, that were aligned north-south approximately 1m east of the western end of the trench. The cables and layer (203) were overlain by a layer of late twentieth century orange sand and gravel, context (202). This represents make-up for the modern ground surface, context (201), a reinforced concrete slab, 0.20m in thickness.

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Context	Pottery		Tile		Slate		Burnt flint		Date	Comments
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
102	7	70					2	30	2 nd century	Eastern ditch fill
107	4	15	1	55	1	25			19 th century	
109	5	20	1	115					Medieval	Green-glazed frag.
204	1	105							19 th century	
Totals	17	210	2	170	1	25	2	30		

Discussion

3.23 The artefactual evidence indicates the presence of Roman, medieval and late post-medieval activity in the vicinity of the site. Of the 17 pottery sherds recovered, 7 (42% of the total assemblage by

count) are of probable 2nd century AD date. They comprise 1 sherd of early Roman sandy ware, 3 sherds of fine unsourced oxidised ware and 2 sherds of sandy grey ware. These were all collected from the fill (102) of ditch [101].

3.24 A small fragment of green-glazed late medieval pottery was collected from context (109), the subsoil overlying ditch [101]. Four sherds of fine oxidised ware of possible medieval date, including part of a handle, were also recovered from this context. A piece of roofing tile, of possible late medieval date, was also present in the subsoil.

3.25 Given the battered and abraded condition of the finds, no further work is proposed on the assemblage.

4. Discussion & Conclusion

DISCUSSION

4.1 A sequence of archaeological deposits was recorded in Trench 1, comprising two ditches, a subsoil, and a garden, agricultural or horticultural earth.

4.2 The deposits in Trench 2 had been truncated by a large cut feature that contained a north-south aligned structure, interpreted as the top of nineteenth century brick-built culvert. The overlying construction backfill was over two metres thick and contained a sherd of nineteenth century transfer decorated pottery. The excavation of the trench to take the culvert had removed all earlier deposits in this area.

CONCLUSION

4.3 The results of the current evaluation indicate that the eastern side of the present site has been significantly disturbed by nineteenth century construction works. However, it appears that limited archaeological features have survived on the western side of the site. These appear to represent possible boundary features, one of which is almost certainly Roman in date. No dating evidence was recovered from the western ditch. A number of medieval sherds was also recovered from the subsoil, context (109). Given their abraded condition, these are likely to have been residual within the context, but they are indicative of medieval activity in the vicinity of the present site.

4.4 The overall risk that the proposed development will disturb archaeological remains of any great significance may be considered to be low to moderate. Should further archaeological intervention be recommended by English Heritage, it is considered that a watching brief on construction groundworks would provide the optimum methodology to mitigate this risk.

CONFIDENCE RATING

4.5 Although the weather was poor during the course of the present evaluation, the conditions were acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. The precise levels of the two identified ditches and their relationships with what was interpreted in one case to be an overlying layer of subsoil, were a little indistinct, but this is not considered to alter the conclusions of the evaluation.

5. Bibliography

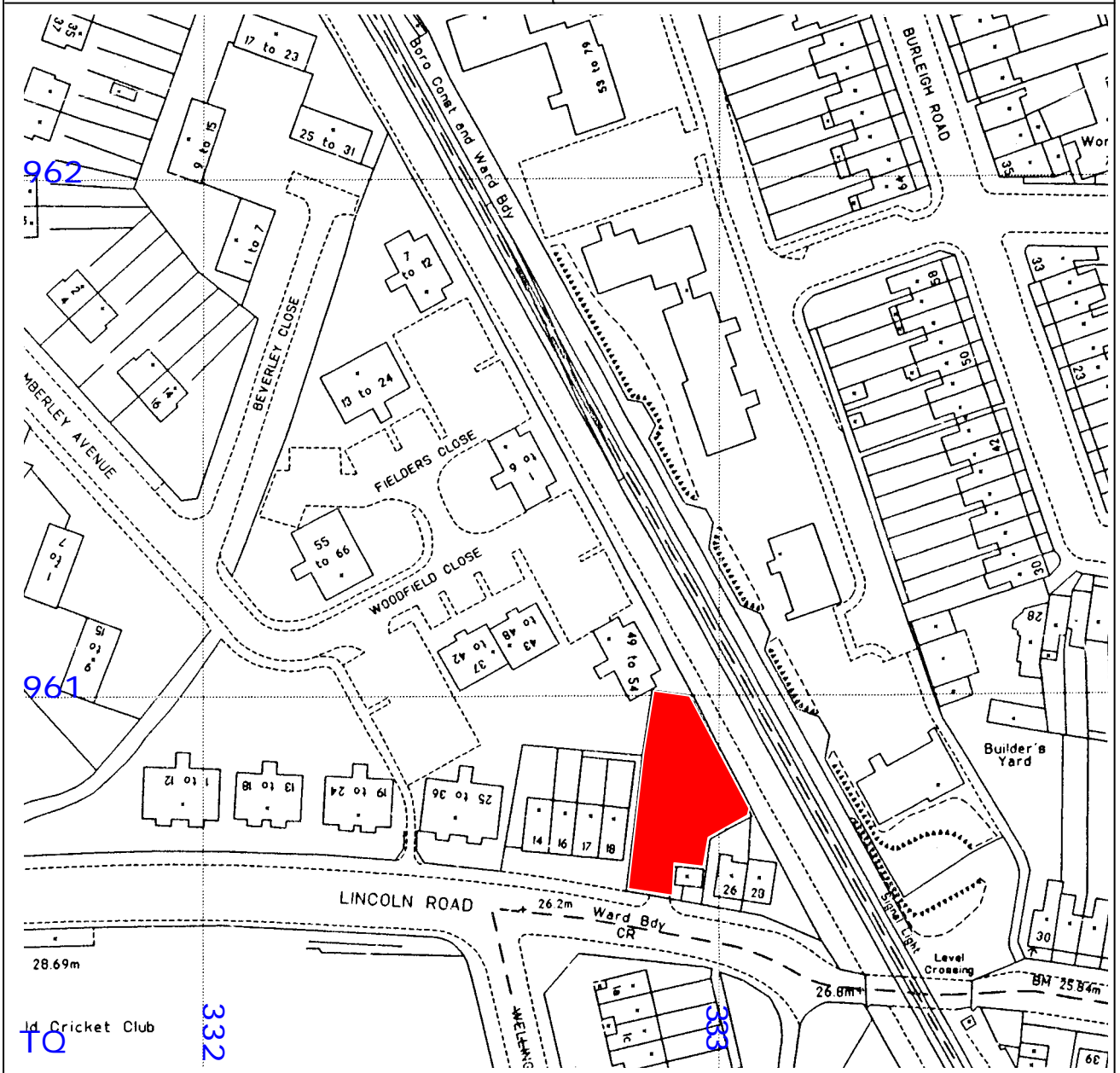
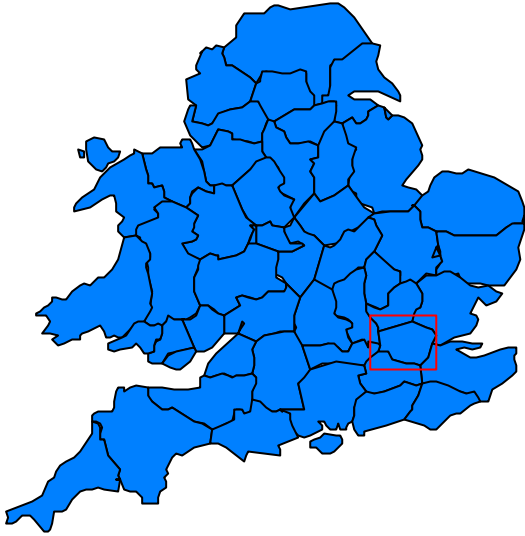
British Geological Survey, 1993, *Sheet 256 North London* scale 1:50,000

Davies, B., Richardson, B. and Tomber, R, 1994, *A Dated Corpus of early Roman Pottery from the City of London*. The Archaeology of Roman London, Volume 5. CBA Research Report 98.

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6. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench location
Figure 3	Trench plans
Figure 4	Sections

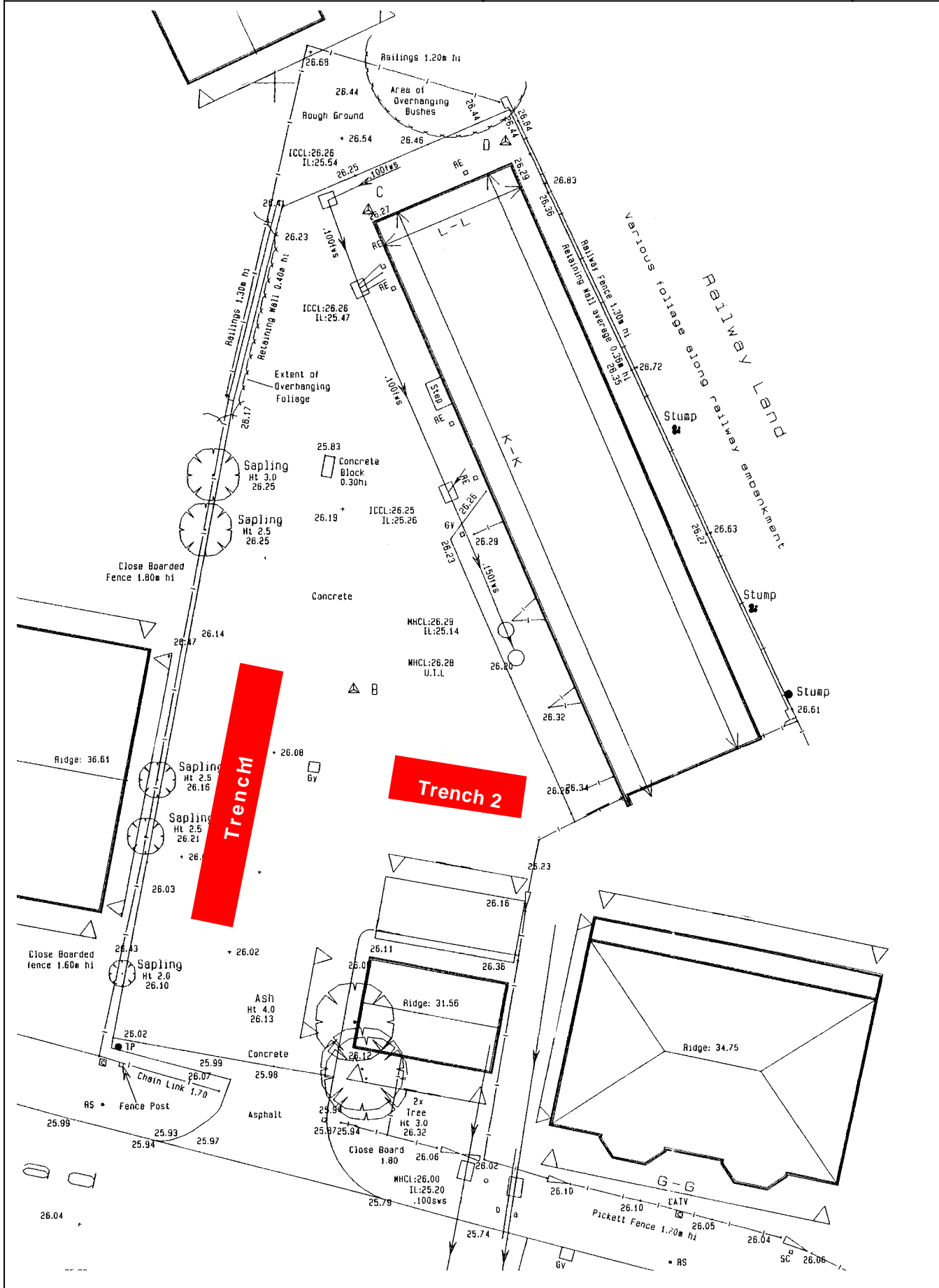


Site Location

Scale 1:1250

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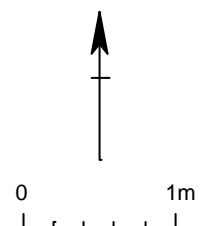
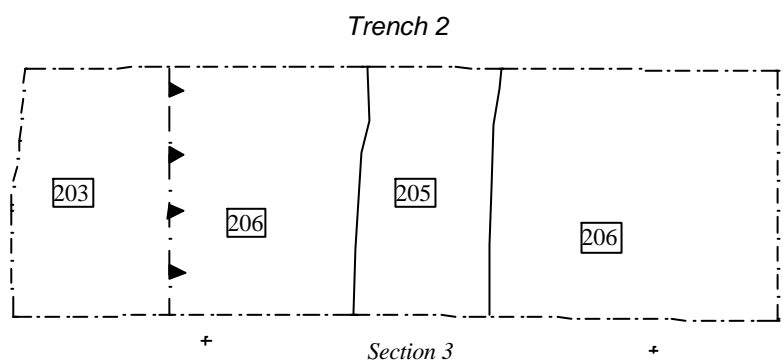
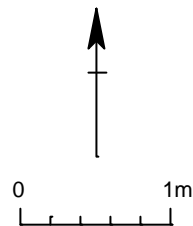
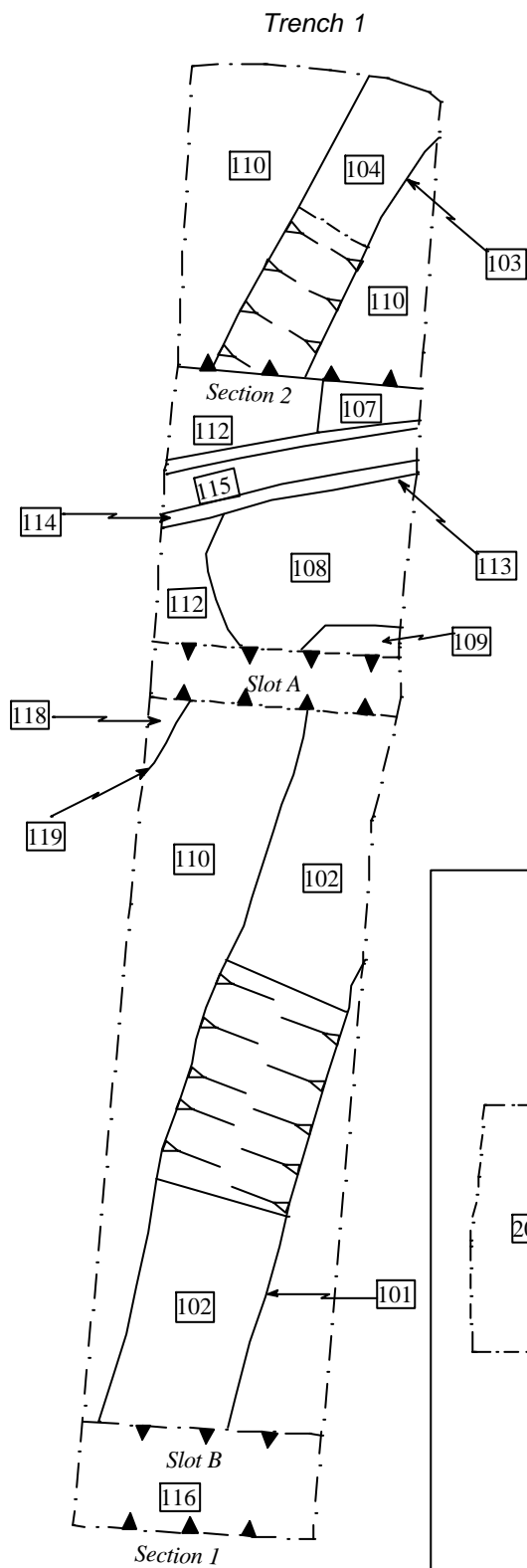
Figure 1



Trench Location

Scale 1:200

Figure 2

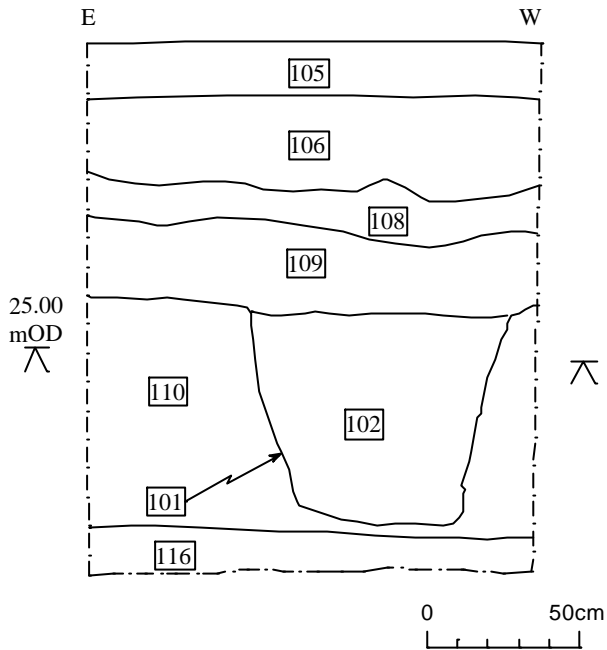


Trench plans

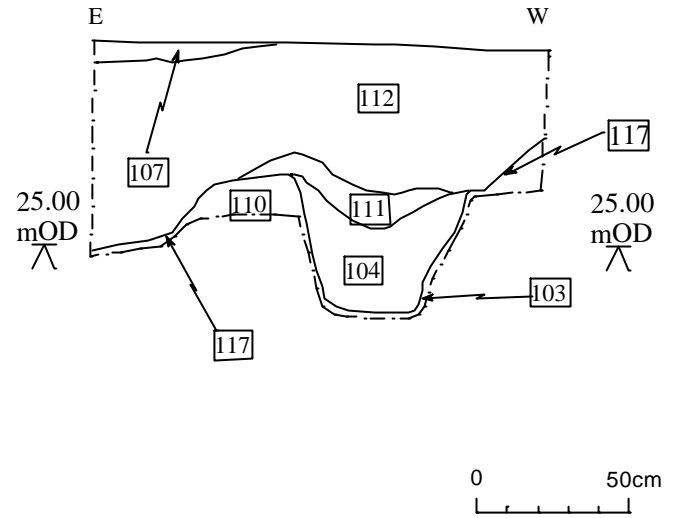
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Figure 3

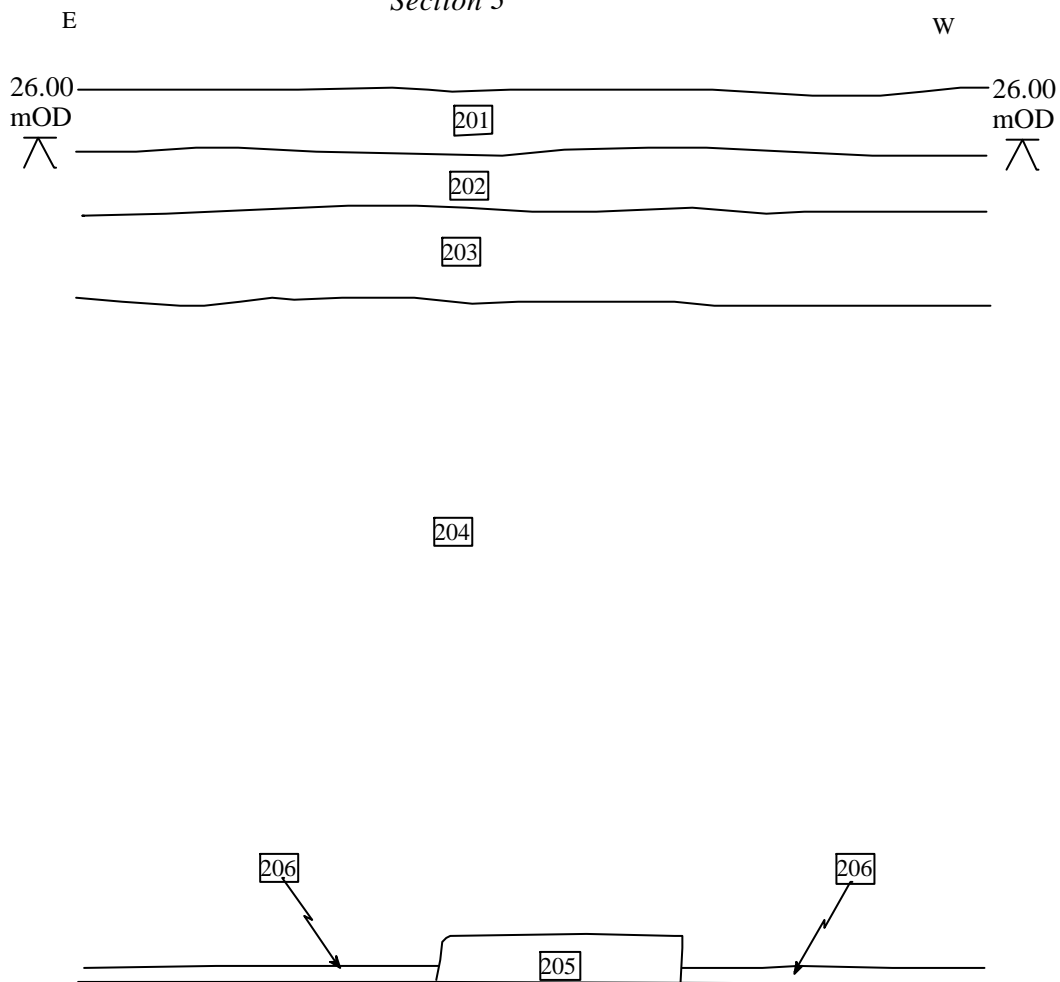
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Sections

Scale 1:25

Figure 4