

Excavation Report

on

The Old Palace,
The Green, Richmond-upon-Thames, TW10.
ODE 03: (TQ 1762 7493)

for

Mr & Mrs M Wonfor

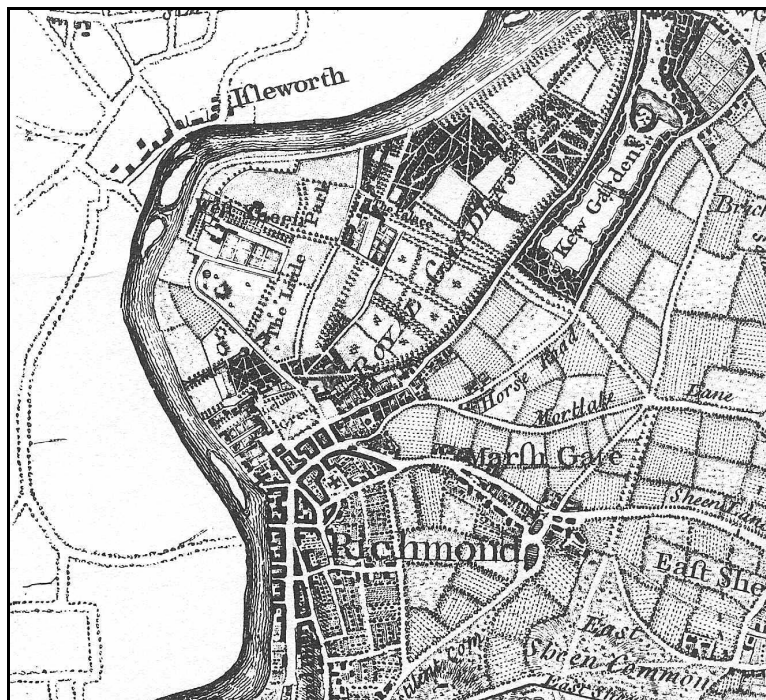


Fig. 1 John Roque's map of Surrey (1741-6)

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by

J G PERRY: October 2005

Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at The Old Palace, The Green, Richmond-upon-Thames, TW10 from 15th to 16th November, 2004 and a subsequent excavation on 7th and 8th February, 2005.

The site lay in an area of archaeological importance as defined in London Borough of Richmond's Unitary Plan. Research by Sutton Archaeological Services for the research design indicated that there was Medieval or Post-Medieval archaeology in the surrounding area.

Six 2m square trenches were excavated across the site revealing turf, topsoil and a fill deposit over a sequence of 17th to 18th century deposits.

No Medieval archaeology was found, but the remains of two Post-Medieval and one modern structures were revealed. In trench 1 was the remains of a post-war bomb shelter and several 17th to 18th century laid deposits that may have been part of the Wine Cellar Courtyard. These deposits were also found in trenches 2, 3 and 4. In trenches 3 and 4 there was also a spread of demolition rubble and two 17th to 18th century walls over the laid deposits. We recovered pottery dating from the 17th to 20th centuries, 19th century clay pipes and 17th to 18th century bricks. The natural was not reached as it was below the bottom level of the development.

Our findings set out in more detail below lead us to conclude that the proposed development did not threaten or destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

We recommend that no further archaeology is needed, though the decision to impose or discharge an archaeological condition rests with the local planning authority on the advice of the archaeological advisor at English Heritage.

CONTENTS

Summary	i
Contents	ii
Illustrations and plates	iii
Introduction	1
Planning background	1
Archaeological & historical background	3
Research objectives	3
Research proposals	4
Archaeological Methodology	64
Evaluation results	6
Trench 1	6
Trench 2	7
Trench 3	8
Trench 4	9
Trenches 5 & 6	10
Excavation	10
Assessment and Interpretation	11
Archaeological potential	12
Conclusions and recommendations	12
Publications and dissemination	12
Archive	12
Appendix I: Contexts	14
Appendix II: Ceramic Building Materials	16

ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1	John Rocques Map (1741-6)	cover
Fig. 2	Site Location	1
Fig. 3	Site Location Plan	2
Fig. 4	Development Plan	6
Fig. 5	Trench 1: east section	7
Fig. 6	Trench 2: east section	8
Fig. 7	Trench 4: east section	9
Fig. 8	Walls 009 and 010	10
Fig. 9	Context matrix	13

PLATES

Plate 1	Trench 2: east section	18
Plate 2	Trench 3: wall 009 looking south	18
Plate 3	Wall 009 : gravel below wall	18
Plate 4	Junction walls 009 and 010	19
Plate 5	Wall 010	19
Plate 6	Trench 4: east section	19
Plate 7	Overview looking east	20
Plate 8	Trench 5: north section	20

Introduction

Origin and scope of report: This report relates to the site of the proposed development at The Old Palace, The Green, Richmond-upon-Thames, TW10.

Mr & Mrs M Wonfor commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation, to assess the impact of the development on the archaeology of the site.

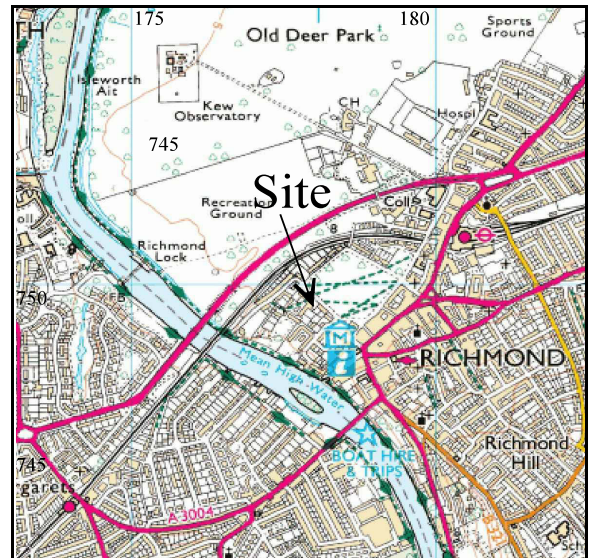


Fig. 2 Site Location © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Location: The site is located in the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames, 200m to the north-west of the centre of Richmond. It lies in an area of mainly residential properties with Richmond Green to the north, and the Old Palace gateway immediately to the west. Friars Lane lies to the east, with Trumpeters House and Queensberry House and the Thames to the south.

Topography: The site is on a slight slope from the west (c. 8.20m aOD) to the east (c. 9.90maOD). It also slopes down towards the river, north (c. 8.80m aOD) to south (c. 6.10m aOD)

Geology: The site lies close to the River Thames, over alluvial deposits and sand and gravel terraces.

Planning background

The development site is the front garden of The Old Palace.

The development consisted of landscaping part of the front garden. As the garden slopes up from the house towards the road, this would entail some ground reduction to terrace the proposed new works.

The site lies within an area of archaeological importance as defined in the London Borough of Richmond's Unitary Development Plan (Appendix II of our research design).

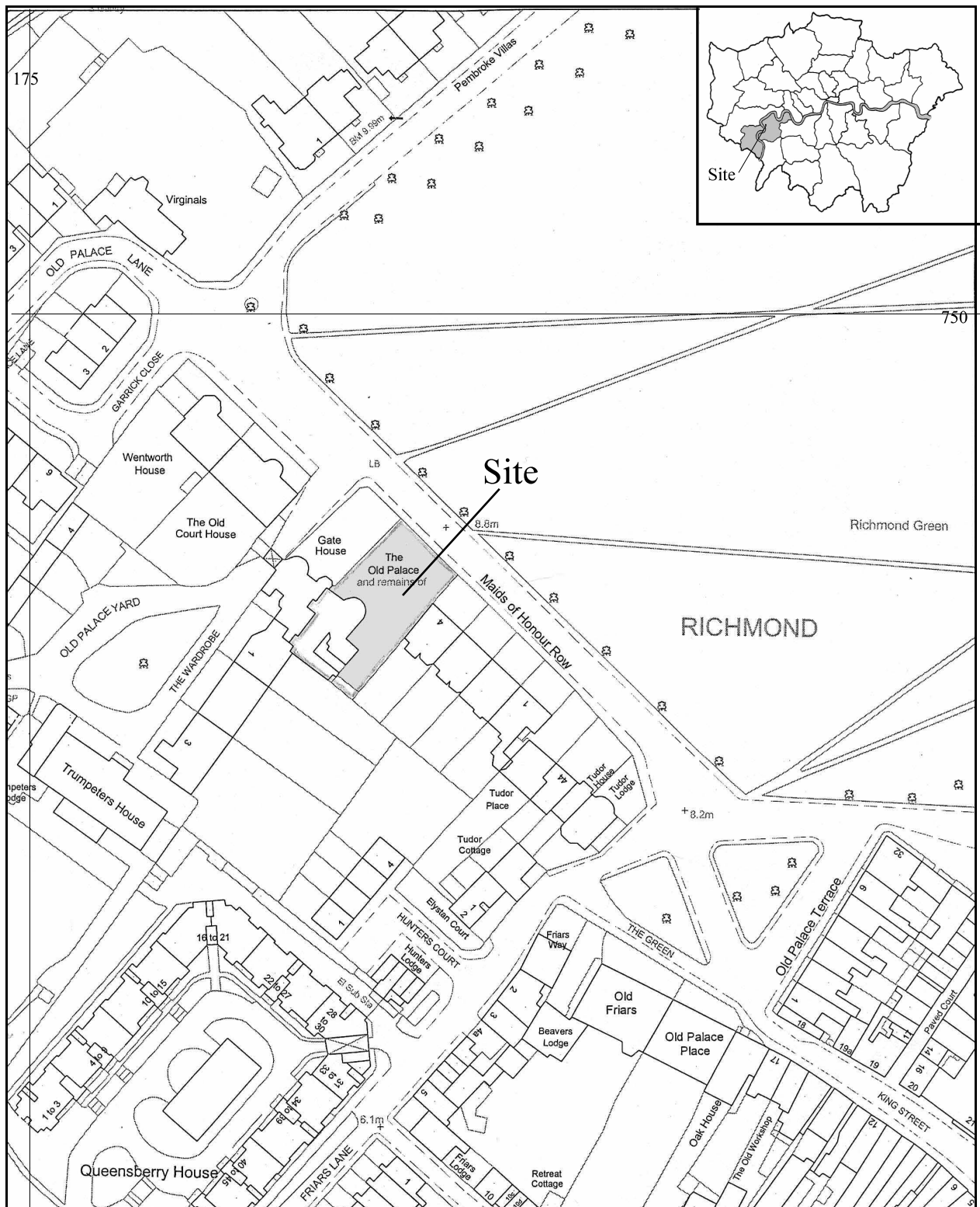


Fig. 3

Site Location plan

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English Heritage advised the borough that under PPG16¹ the archaeological potential should be tested before the present scheme can be recommended for planning approval.

¹ Department of the Environment: Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning, HMSO, 1990. Appendix I.

Archaeological and historical background

Taking the pre-evaluation evidence as a whole, before the evaluation, the potential for Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon settlement in the area of the site was considered **low**, though stray finds might turn up. There was a **low to medium** potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeology in the area of the site.

Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon: There is evidence of Prehistoric and to some extent Saxon activity in the Richmond area, but no Roman sites are known.

The pre-evaluation evidence showed a **low** potential for Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon archaeology in the area of the site.

Medieval and Post-Medieval: The main *Medieval and Post-Medieval* evidence in the area immediately around the site shows the two successive Medieval Royal Palaces and a later Tudor one. Robert Cowie and others have reviewed all the evidence and produced a new plan of the Tudor Palace². As part of this review several small scale excavations were looked at including one in 1991, when an extension was made to the ‘Old Palace’. This excavation revealed traces of the former Tudor Palace, as well as 18th and 19th century structures.

The pre-evaluation evidence showed a **low to medium** potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeology in the area of the site.

Research objectives

In September 2003 Sutton Archaeological Services produced its research design. Based on our brief assessment of the evidence, we formed the objectives to look for signs of Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation and activity on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

The Institute of Field Archaeologists has defined the purpose of a field evaluation as follows.

² Cowie, R. & Cloake, J. 2001 ‘An archaeological survey at Richmond Palace, Surrey, *Post-Med Archaeol*, **35**, p.3-52.

“The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource
- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.”

Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, IFA, 2001

Archaeological Proposals

The archaeological evaluation originally proposed, was to excavate six 2m square trenches across the footprint of the new garden development, to assess the character and extent of any surviving archaeological evidence. A further contingency 4m² area was to be held in reserve either as a further trench or as an addition to an existing trench, to help clarify any archaeology found in the original six trenches.

Archaeological Methodology

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological evaluation in accordance with

- our research design dated September 2003.
- the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangement in Field Archaeology, Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluations
- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage

Control: All excavation work was done under the control of the archaeologists on site.

Trenches: We initially dug 6 trenches as shown on fig 4, which were later joined up for an excavation.

Trench	Position	Dimensions (metres)
1	northern part of the site	2 x 2
2	northern part of the site	2 x 2
3	central part of the site	2 x 2
4	central part of the site	2 x 2
5	southern part of the site	2 x 2
6	southern part of the site	2 x 2

We broke open each trench with a mini digger, using a wide-bladed (1.50m) smooth-edged ditching bucket and, where appropriate, a toothed bucket.

The garden slopes up from the house (8.41m aOD) towards the road (8.865m aOD). This meant that the depth of excavation for the proposed development at the northern, top part of the garden (trenches 1 and 2) was be about 1m, about 50-60cm in the centre (trenches 3 and 4) but only about 24cm at the southern part of the garden, near the house (trenches 5 and 6). In this way we excavated up to 20cm deeper than the proposed work required to make sure that no archaeology would be harmed.

Non-archaeological deposits: In each trench we removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10cm, the topsoil and made ground deposits from the 18th century or later. Work continued removing all overburden until we reached the first archaeological layer (or the natural deposits) or the maximum depth of the proposed work, at which point all machine work ceased in that trench. In this way we excavated trenches 1 to 6 and then the opened area.

Archaeological deposits: All low grade archaeological deposits were removed by machine after recording. All archaeological features were recorded in detail before being removed.

Site records: We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, plans, sections and photographs. A Munsell soil colour chart was used to determine soil colour and all readings were taken with moist soil. In all, we recorded 19 contexts - numbered [001] to [019] - in a single context recording system. The site was recorded in accordance with the Fieldwork Methodology in our Research Design, and using the Museum of London's recording system.

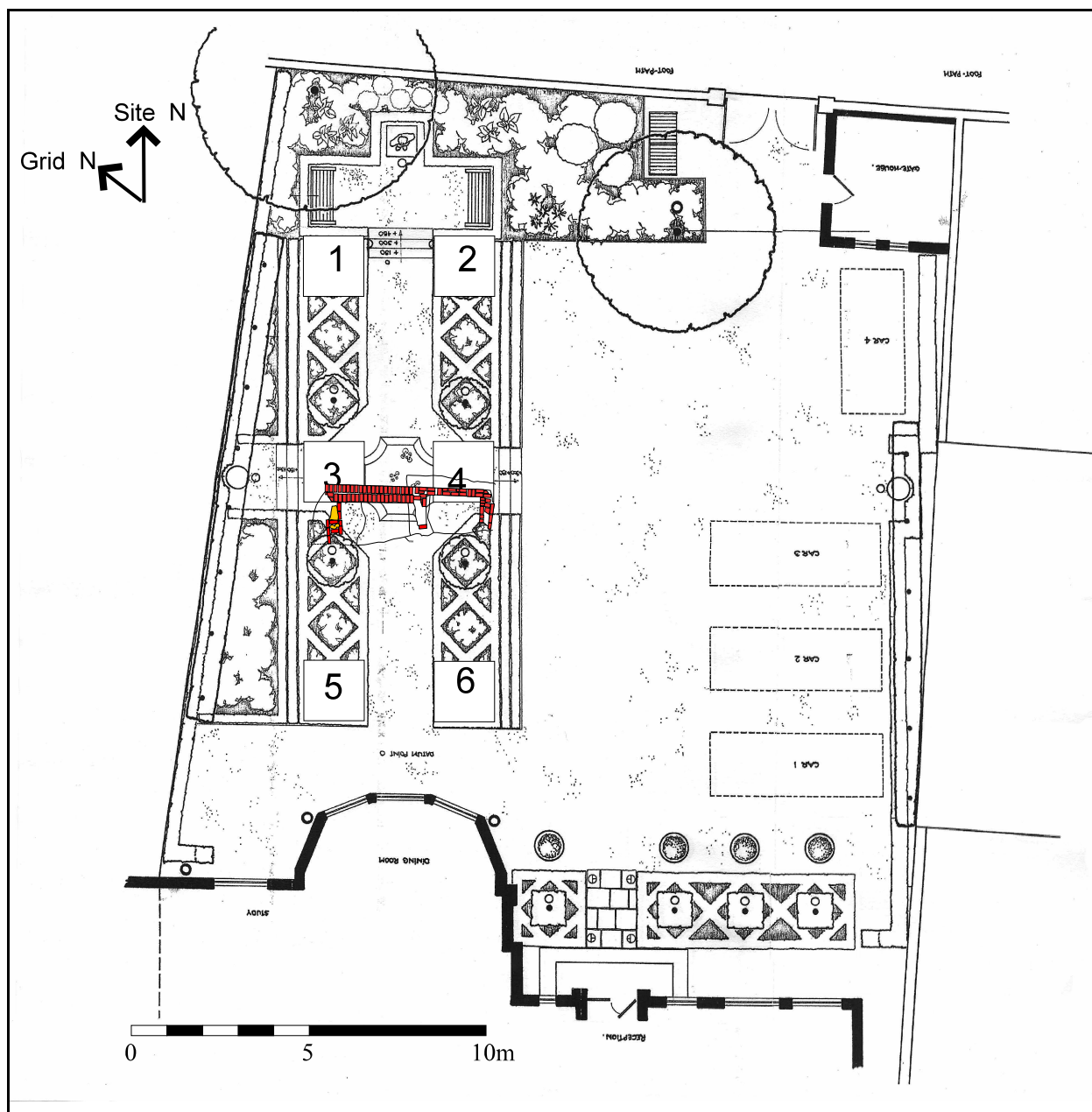


Fig. 4 Development Plan

Appendix 1 to this report is a list of the contexts found, and fig. 9 shows the site matrix.

Levels: All levels were taken from an Ordnance Survey spot height, value 8.80m aOD, on Richmond Green, opposite the Old Palace.

Backfilling: After excavating and recording the site was handed over to the landscape contractors.

Evaluation results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the northern part of the site (ground 8.865m aOD). The earliest contexts were a series of what appeared to be laid deposits. The first of these was a compact layer of sand

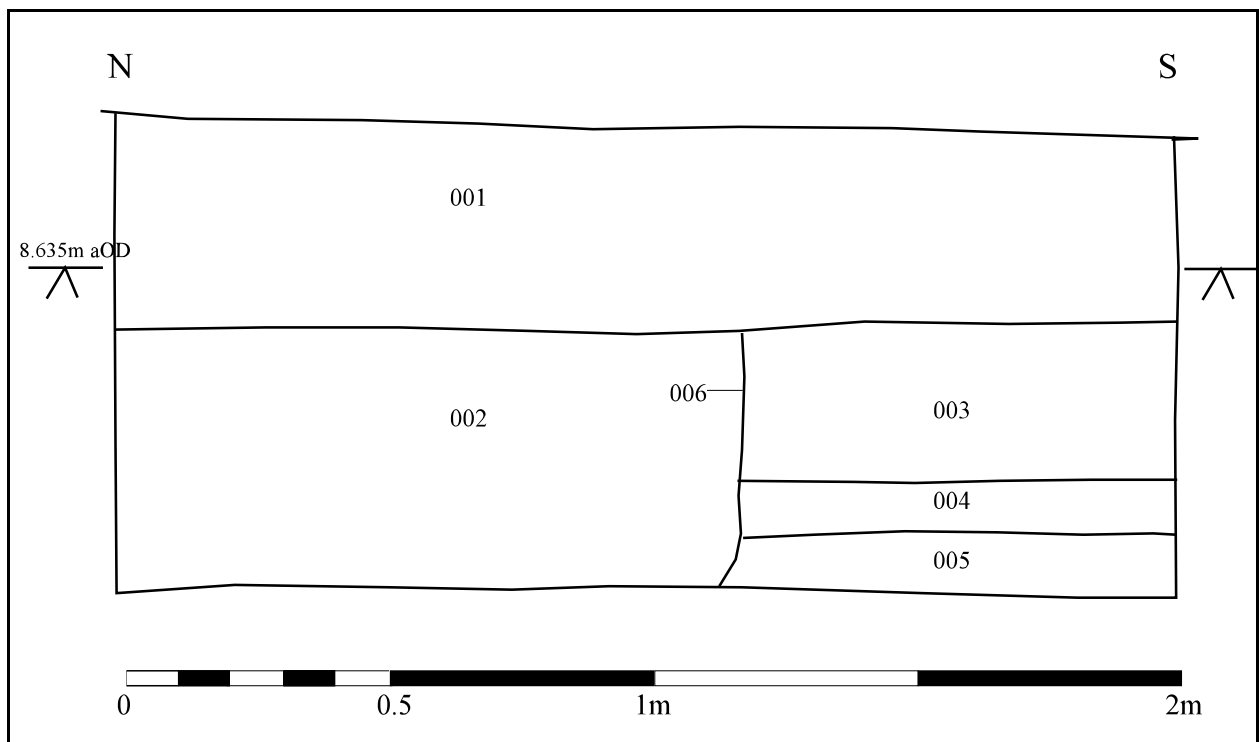


Fig. 5 Trench 1: east section

containing lenses of crushed red brick (east: 8.056m aOD to west: 8.033m aOD). The bottom of this layer was not reached. Above the sand was a 10cm deep deposit of crushed Reigate stone [004] (east: 8.193m aOD to west: 8.193m aOD). A 30cm thick gravel deposit [003] (8.53m aOD) overlaid the Reigate stone. Contexts 003, 004 and 005 all contained fragments of late 17th to 18th century brick.

A construction pit [006] cut down through contexts 003, 004 and 005. The pit contained an entrance stairway to a concrete structure [007], which had been capped and blocked with a concrete slab. The fill [002] of the construction trench contained finds of modern 20th century pottery, a sherd of Metropolitan slipware, 19th century clay pipe stems and 18th to 20th century brick.

Above the pit fill [002] and gravel deposit [003] was a made ground deposit capped by the turf and topsoil [001] (ground 8.865m aOD). It covered the trench to a depth of 40-50cm.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the northern part of the site, 2m to the east of trench 1. Below context 001 (ground 8.915m aOD) were the same sequence of laid deposits (contexts 003, 004 and 005) as was found in trench 1 (plate 1). There were no other features in the trench so it was possible to examine the surface of the gravel deposit [003]. The gravel surface was not level, but undulated across the trench by up to 6 to 7cms. In one area it was not present at all.

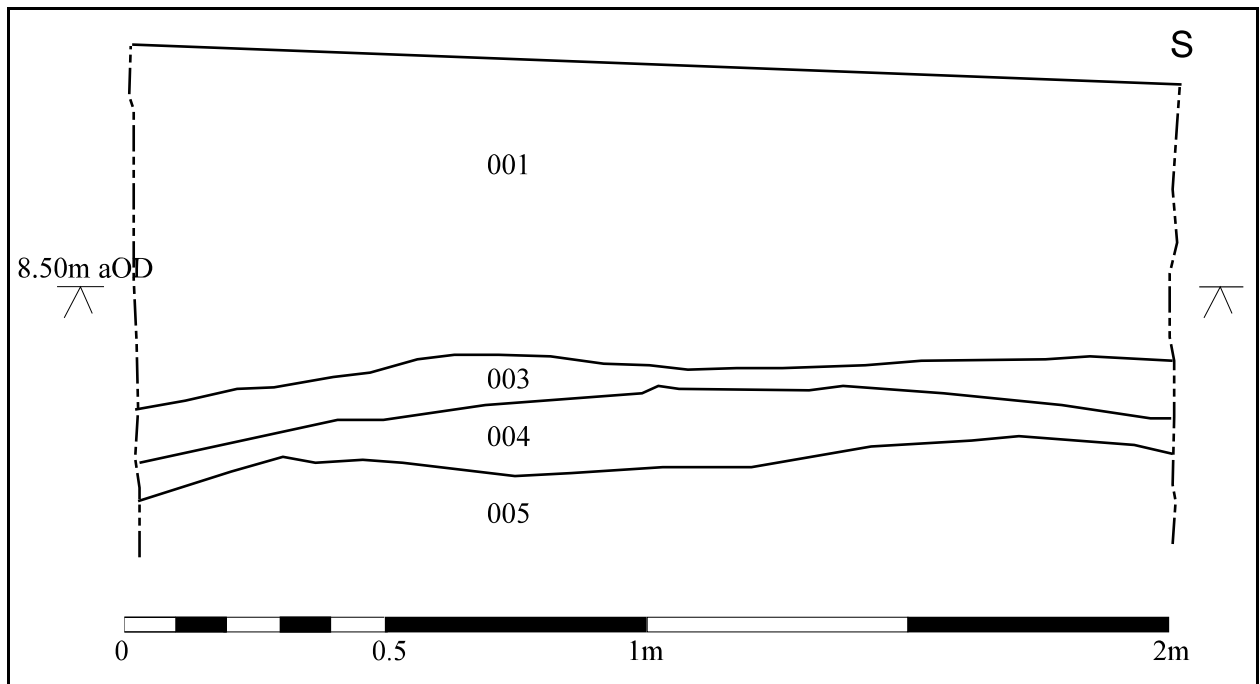


Fig. 6 Trench 2: east section

Contexts **003**, **004** and **005** all contained fragments of late 17th to 18th century brick.

Trench 3

Trench 3 lay 4m to the south of trench 1. The same sequence of laid deposits (contexts **002**, **003** and **004**), as found in trenches 1 and 2, were also found in trench 3.

Cut into the gravel and underlying contexts was a roughly circular pit [**017**] with a sandy clay fill [**016**]. Built directly on top of this pit and the gravel [**003**] (plate 3), was the corner of a brick structure [**009**] aligned east (8.536m aOD) to west (8.525m aOD) and north to south (plate 2). The wall was four bricks thick (45cm) and the eastern end ran into the east section. Only 3 courses of bricks survived, with the upper two courses laid in English bond. The bottom course was a mainly header course laid on edge.

To the north of the wall was the remains of a brick rubble deposit [**008**] containing brick fragments of the same type as the wall. The made ground deposit and the turf and topsoil [**001**] lay above the brick rubble (ground 8.785m aOD).

The only finds were fragments of late 17th to 18th century brick from context **008**.

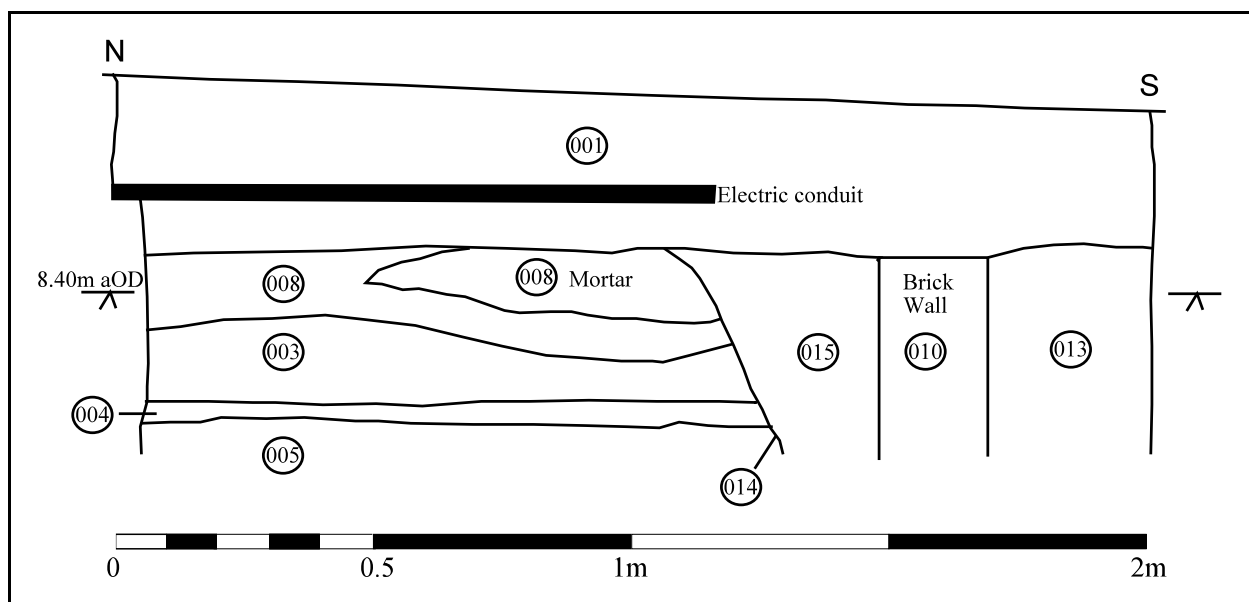


Fig. 7 Trench 4: east section

Trench 4

Trench 4 lay 2m to the east of trench 3 and 4m to the south of trench 2. A similar sequence of deposits was present in trench 4 as was found in trench 3. They consisted of the sand [005] (8.161m aOD), crushed Reigate stone [004] (8.20m aOD), gravel deposit [003] (8.320m aOD) and overlying brick rubble layer [008] (8.320m aOD). The overlying made ground deposit and the turf and topsoil [001] (8.46m aOD) covered the whole trench to a depth of 27-30cm (plate 6).

The trench also revealed another brick wall [010] that was clearly not the same as wall 009 in trench 3, though it was on a similar alignment to it (plates 4 and 5). The relationship between the two walls was at this time unknown, as the junction between them was in the baulk between trenches 3 and 4. Wall 010 was over 7 courses high (8.475m aOD), two bricks thick (22cm) and was built in English Bond. Traces of two corner walls were also found, aligned north to south, forming the end of a small, possibly square structure. The interior of the structure was well finished with struck pointing, but the exterior was very roughly pointed, if at all. The wall had been built in a construction trench [014] and filled with a brown sandy clay [015]. The construction trench [014] cut through contexts 008, 003 and 004. To the south of wall 010 was another brick and mortar rubble deposit [013], lying against wall 010.

The only finds from the trench were fragments of late 17th to 18th century bricks from contexts 008 and 013.



Fig. 8 Walls 009 and 010

Trenches 5 and 6

These two trenches were the closest to the Old Palace and were excavated to a depth of about 24cms. Below the turf and topsoil [001] (ground 8.41m aOD) was a layer of broken white mortar [012] (8.24m aOD). Below the mortar deposit, slight traces of another context were partly revealed. This was a silty clay deposit [011] (8.16m aOD).

No trace of walls 009 or 010 was found in trenches 5 and 6. No finds were recovered from either trench.

Excavation

Following the evaluation and the identification of several brick structures, it was proposed to investigate these structures, and any other features, in more detail when the development area was opened up. The development area was opened up and made available for archaeological investigation just before the main landscaping work began. The opened area revealed all the features found during the evaluation, plus some additional information and several new contexts.

The relationship between walls 009 and 010 was examined and it was founded that wall 010 had cut into and destroyed the eastern end of wall 009.

A large cut [018] was revealed to the south of walls 009 and 010, which had removed the southern extensions of these two walls, as well as cutting through contexts 003, 004, 005, 011, 012, 013, 014 and 015. The fill [019] of the cut was an orange sandy clay. Only the top 2-4cm of the fill were examined.

The only finds from the fill were fragments of late 17th to 18th century bricks from the upper part of the fill [019] and from 013.

Assessment and interpretation

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeology in the surrounding area.

The evaluation and subsequent excavation revealed a sequence of laid deposits consisting of sand [005], crushed Reigate stone [004] and a gravel deposit [003]. These deposits extended from the northern part of the site to beyond trenches 3 and 4, where they were removed by the large cut [018]. The large area cover by these deposits and their compact nature suggests a courtyard area, possibly the Wine Cellar Court³, rather than a road. These deposits date from the late 17th to 18th centuries.

A brick structure, represented by wall 009, was built directly onto the gravel surface, without any other foundation. There is insufficient evidence to tell what this building was used for or its size.

At a later date, another brick structure [010] was constructed, partly destroying the previous one [009]. Three sides of 010 were recorded, suggesting a building 2.2m square. Again there is insufficient evidence to tell what this building was used for.

Structures 009 and 010 date from the late 17th to 18th centuries.

In trench 1 the entrance for a cold war shelter, constructed of concrete blocks, was revealed.

There was no evidence for archaeology in any of the trenches other than the late 17th to 20th century remains described above. The only archaeological finds made were bricks and pottery sherds dating from the 17th/18th to 19th/ 20th centuries.

³ Cowie, R. & Cloake, J. 2001 *op. cit*

We found no evidence or residual finds of Medieval or Tudor occupation on the site in the deposits examined.

Archaeological potential

Following the evaluation and excavation our revised view is that this site has no potential for archaeological remains of the Medieval or Tudor periods at the levels examined. Medieval or Tudor remains may exist at a lower level.

Conclusions and recommendations

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development did not threaten to destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

We recommend that no further archaeology is needed, though the decision to impose or discharge an archaeological condition rests with the local planning authority on the advice of the archaeological advisor at English Heritage.

Publications and dissemination

The evidence is not worthy of publication but a note on the evaluation will be placed in the *London Archaeologist's* round-up and a copy of the report lodged in the local library.

Archive

The resulting archive, including all the finds, will be donated by the developer and deposited with the Museum of London when the final report has been completed.

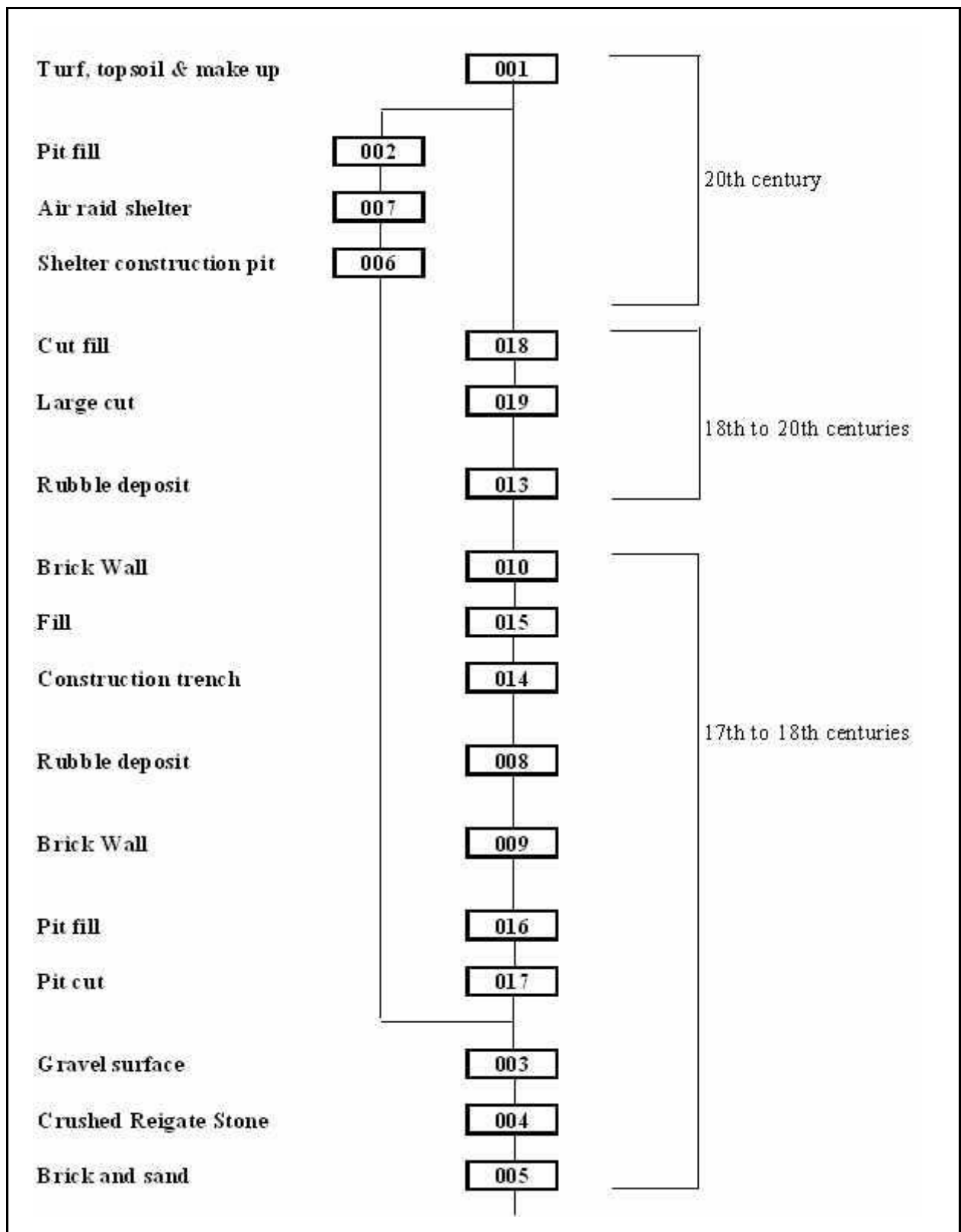


Fig. 9

Context matrix

Context No.	Tr .	Type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
001	1	Dep	Friable, dark brown clayey sand (10YR 3/3), containing occasional small to medium flint pebbles	40 - 50cm	Turf and topsoil
002	1	Dep	Friable, very dark brown silty sand (10YR 2.5/2), containing moderate small to medium flint pebbles	50cm	Fill of cut 006
003	1	Dep	Friable, dark brown silty sand (7.5YR 3/3), containing 60% to 70% fine to large flint pebbles and occasional medium to large brick fragments	30cm	Laid surface?
004	1	Dep	Compact, olive gray (5Y 4/2) crushed Reigate stone, containing occasional small to medium fragments of red brick.	13cm	Laid surface?
005	1	Dep	Friable, dark yellowish brown fine sand (10YR 3/4), containing 10% crushed red brick	-	Laid surface?
006	1	Cut	Cut for WWII shelter [007]	-	Cut
007	1	Mas	Indurated, medium gray concrete structure.	-	Post WWII air raid shelter
008	3/4	Dep	Friable, Yellowish brown to reddish brown course sand. 70-80% brick rubble and 10% chalk flecks, and occasional small flint pebbles	-	18 th century demolition debris
009	3	Mas	Brick wall, 3 courses high (English bond) and 4 bricks wide, return to south at west side.	1.27 x .455 x .260	18 th century brick structure
010	4	Mas	Brick wall, 7+ courses high (English bond) and 2 bricks wide, return to south and both ends.	1.60 x .295 x	18 th century brick structure
011	5	Dep	Very soft, brown silty clay, with occasional small flint pebbles	-	Sub-soil?
012	5	Dep	Friable, brown silty sand with 60-70% mortar fragments	8cm	18 th century demolition level
013	4	Dep	Loose, dark red to black coarse sand, 30-40% brick rubble	-	18 th century demolition debris

014	4	Dep	Loose, dark brown to red coarse sand containing 20-30% brick rubble and frequent white mortar fragments	35+c m	18 th /19 th century demolition debris
015	5	Cut	‘L’ shaped cut for wall 010	2.5m x 1.7m	Wall cut
016	-	Dep	Very soft, brown sandy clay containing freq small to large flint pebbles and occas small fragments of brick	-	Fill of pit cut
017	-	Cut	Semi-circular pit cut	-	Cut
018	-	Dep	Very soft, orange sandy clay containing freq small to large flint pebbles and moderate small fragments of brick	-	Fill of linear cut
019	-	Cut	Linear, east-west pit cut	-	Cut

Bricks [004]

<i>Size</i>	5 fragments of brick with the largest fragment 88mm x 58mm x 48mm (l x w x h)
<i>Condition</i>	-
<i>Matrix</i>	Fairly consistent fine sand matrix, with very occasional medium chalk inclusions
<i>Features</i>	No frog or other features
<i>Mortar</i>	Off white to light brown, sandy mortar with moderate small chalk inclusions
<i>Date</i>	The matrix is consistent with bricks of the late 17 th to 18 th centuries, possibly going into the early 19 th century.

Brick [009]

<i>Size</i>	230mm x 108mm x 68mm (l x w x h)
<i>Condition</i>	Poorly formed with rough faces, possibly damaged or re-used
<i>Matrix</i>	Fairly consistent fine sand matrix, with occasional large flint inclusions
<i>Features</i>	No frog or other features
<i>Mortar</i>	Off white to light brown, sandy mortar with moderate small chalk inclusions
<i>Date</i>	The size and matrix is consistent with bricks of the late 17 th to 18 th centuries, possibly going into the early 19 th century.

Brick [010]

<i>Size</i>	234mm x 109mm x 58mm (l x w x h)
<i>Condition</i>	Reasonably well formed with a rolled edge along one side. Sharp arris to other edges, forming striations along surface
<i>Matrix</i>	Fairly consistent fine sand matrix, with occasional large flint inclusions
<i>Features</i>	Rough side face, with no frog or other features
<i>Mortar</i>	Off white to light brown, sandy mortar with moderate small chalk inclusions
<i>Date</i>	The size and matrix is consistent with bricks of the late 17 th to 18 th centuries, possibly going into the early 19 th century.

Conclusions

The bricks are probably late 17th to 18th century. This type of brick goes into the 19th century, but a date in the 18th century would best fit all samples. No Tudor were found.



Plate 1

Trench 2: East Section



Pate 2

Trench 3: wall 009 looking south



Plate 3

Wall 009: gravel below wall



Plate 4 Junction of walls **009** and **010**



Plate 5 Wall **010**



Plate 6 Trench 4: east section



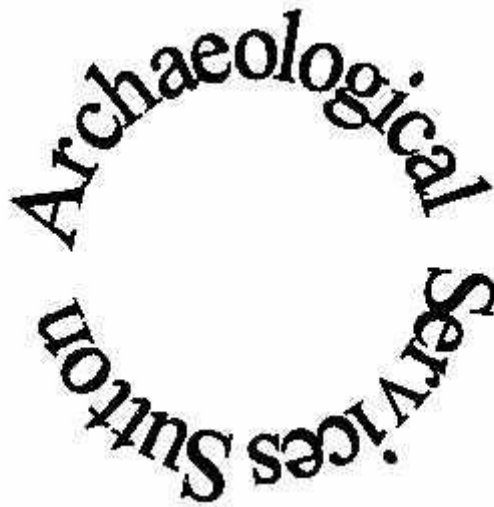
Plate 7

Overall view looking east



Plate 8

Trench 5: north section



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