

**‘THE SHOOT’, CITY OF LONDON CEMETERY
ALDERSBROOK ROAD, MANOR PARK
ILFORD E12 5DQ
LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

September 2015



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SITE CODE: SHT15
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PLANNING REFERENCE: 14/01187/FUL

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED
5-7 SOUTHWARK STREET
LONDON SE1 1RQ
Telephone: 020 7403 9660
e-mail: mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk

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Abstract

Archaeological evaluation of a site within the area of The Shoot, in the City of London Cemetery, Manor Park E12, took place in July-August 2015. The work was carried out as a condition of planning consent prior to landscaping and extension of the existing cemetery (LB of Newham Planning Ref: 14/01187/FUL).

Historic maps show that the site lies within the former grounds of Aldersbrook Manor, covering a small valley immediately to the south of the main house that once contained water features and a terraced garden. On its southern perimeter the application site also overlies part of an area of later 19th century 'public graves', associated with the present cemetery.

Although the evaluation did not reveal any extensive or very significant archaeological remains some features and remains relating to the designed landscape of Aldersbrook Manor were found in the northeast corner of the site (Trench 1). Most notable was the base/ lower section of a substantial brick-built terrace retaining wall. Parallel with and about 4.6m to the south of this was a broad gravel path, whilst other associated deposits included made ground and soil horizons to the north and south of the retaining wall.

There was little independent dating evidence for these remains, but it seems clear that they are related and that they all form parts of the 18th century terraced garden. They were few remains elsewhere in the evaluated area, although a brick drain in the adjacent evaluation trench is also very likely to date to this period.

Ten test pits were also excavated on the southern edge of the site, in the area of recorded 19th century burials. Most of these exposed probable grave cuts and fills, but there was no evidence for human remains at this level. The pits were generally dug to a depth about 300mm below the proposed formation levels, so there seems little likelihood that the groundworks will directly impact upon burials.

In view of these results it is suggested that no further mitigation is required and that the archaeological condition can be deemed satisfied. Significant remains, notably the section of terrace wall (7), were confined to the northeastern corner of the site and were only encountered at depths of 1.0m to 1.5m below present ground level. Proposed construction drawings for this area indicate that groundworks will be approximately 0.5m to 0.7m in depth, and so will be entirely confined to the overlying deposit of recent made ground.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1** This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation prior to proposed groundworks within the area of The Shoot, in the City of London Cemetery, Aldersbrook Road, Manor Park E12. The evaluation forms one of the conditions of planning consent (LB of Newham Planning Ref.14/01187/FUL), the intention being to landscape and develop this area for future burials.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Compass Archaeology between the 27th July and 11th August 2015.

- 1.2** Historic maps show that the site lies within the former grounds of Aldersbrook Manor, and just to the south of the main house. On its southern perimeter the application site also covers part of an area of later 19th century ‘public graves’ associated with the present cemetery.
- 1.3** Historic England advised that a preliminary archaeological evaluation of the site should be undertaken in response to the condition of planning consent, prior to the start of development.

A subsequent Written Scheme detailed the proposed evaluation (Compass Archaeology May 2015). This included a total of three trial trenches in the northeastern part of the site, and a further ten smaller test pits along the southern perimeter, all located within the development footprint and areas of potential archaeological impact.

2. Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by the City of London Open Spaces Department, with further assistance and information kindly provided by Harrison Design-development. Arrangements for on-site plant and facilities were made by the staff of the Cemetery.

The fieldwork was monitored by John Gould of Historic England GLAAS, on behalf of the London Borough of Newham.

3. Background

3.1 Location and topography

- 3.1.1** The development site is located on the eastern edge of the City of London Cemetery, south of Poplar Road and the Old Lawns area (Figs.1 to 3). The site is bounded to the west by Limes Avenue, and across the way from the Columbarium Catacombs. Limes Avenue continues southeast of the site and the Birches wildlife area bounds the site to the east. The ground to the south is a further area of lawn graves.

The site is currently used as a soil storage and handling area, measuring approximately 185m east-west, by *c* 85m north-south at the west end and narrowing to *c* 40m at the eastern end (an area of approximately 13,800m², or 1.38 hectares).

3.1.2 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 257: Romford) the underlying geology of the site is characterised by Hackney Gravels overlying London Clay. The site itself lies over a spine of London Clay, extending west into this area of gravels, with alluvial deposits at the far eastern end in the valley of the River Roding.

3.1.3 The present site comprises a series of mounds and ‘troughs’ produced by the site having been used as a soil storage and handling site. As such the topography of the site varies greatly from point to point, but with areas of hardstanding in the west and lawn in the northeast corner being much more level. The highest points of the site lie at approximately 16.80m to 17.30mOD at the western end of the mounds, whilst the lowest points lie at approximately 7.70mOD in the northeast corner on an area of lawn. The hardstanding at the western end of the site is at 11.30 to 11.70mOD and the central ‘trough’ lies at 10.50mOD.

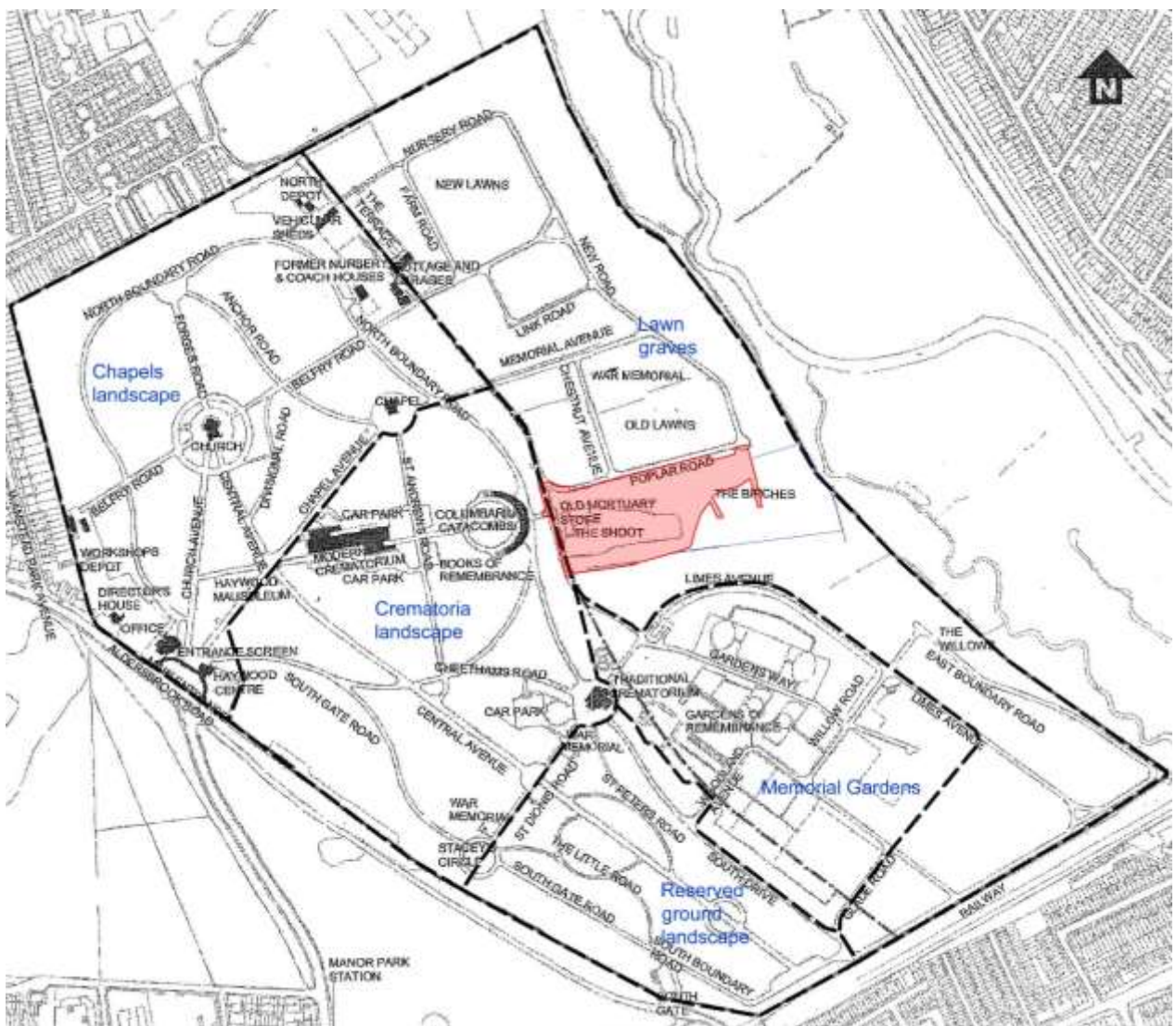


Fig.1: General location plan with the application area outlined in red (adapted from the Conservation Management Plan, Fig.4, p 28)

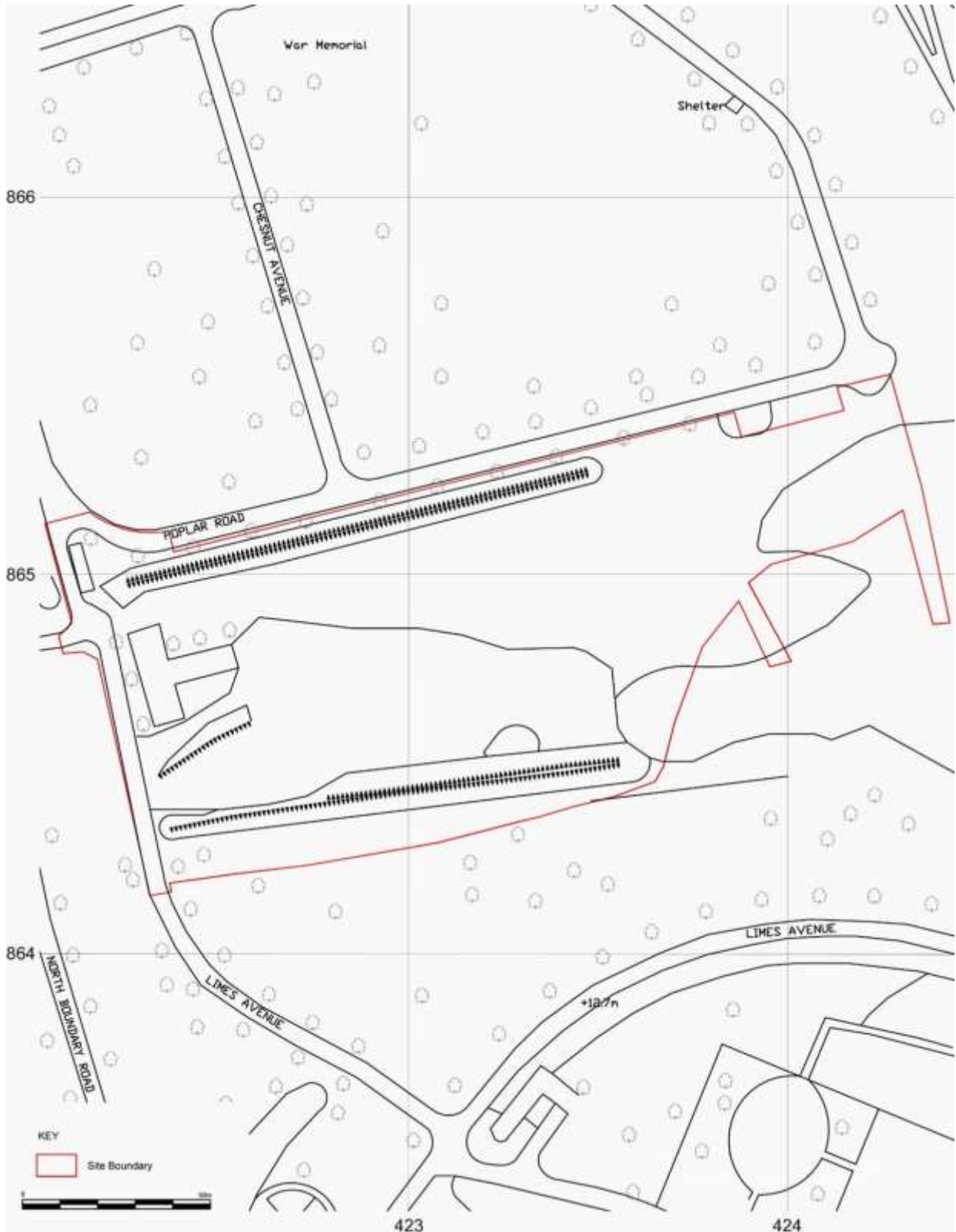


Fig.2: The application site boundary in relation to the current Ordnance Survey map

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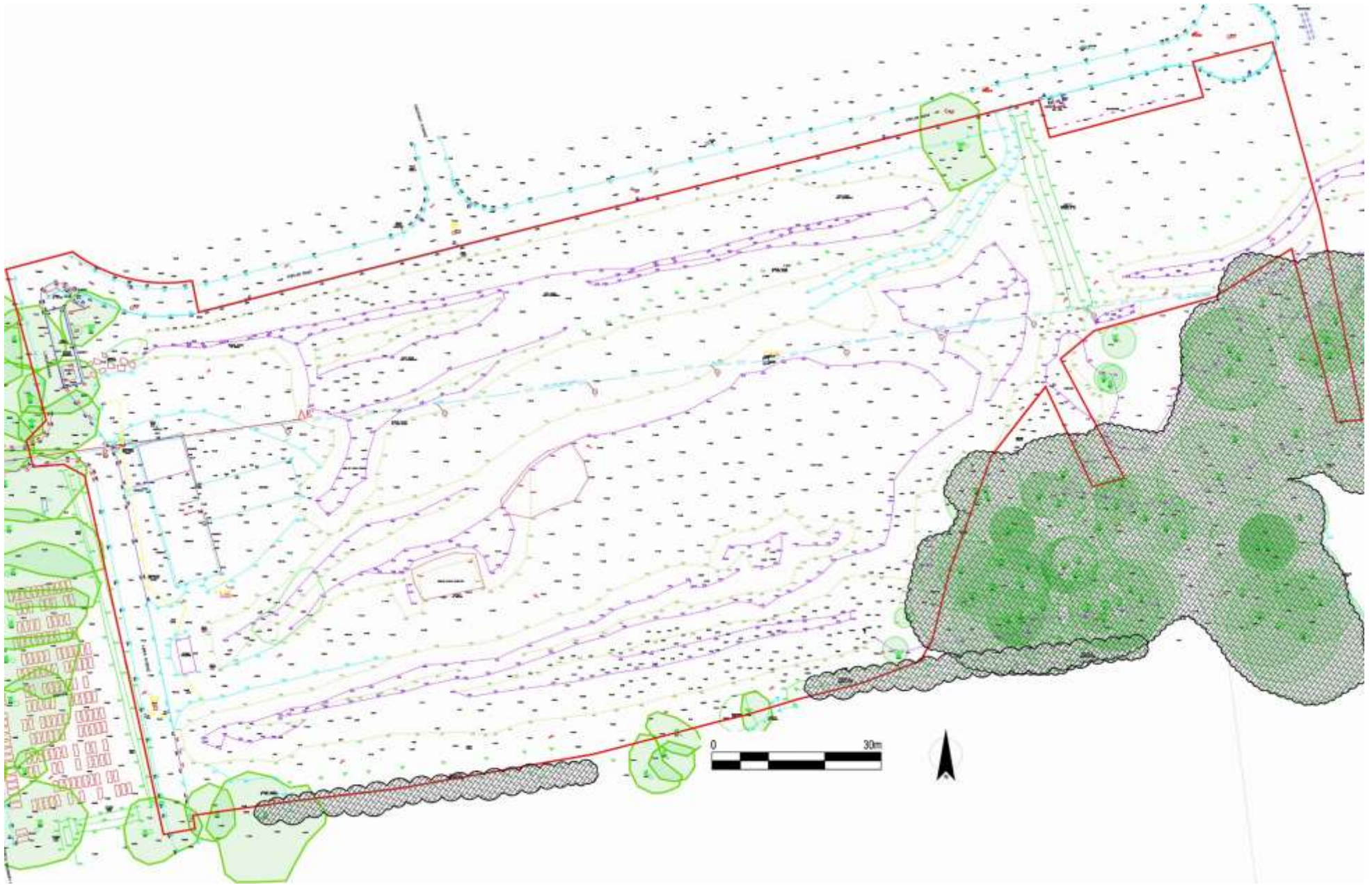


Fig.3: Existing site plan. Adapted from Harrison design development, Drawing no: 069-01-01 A

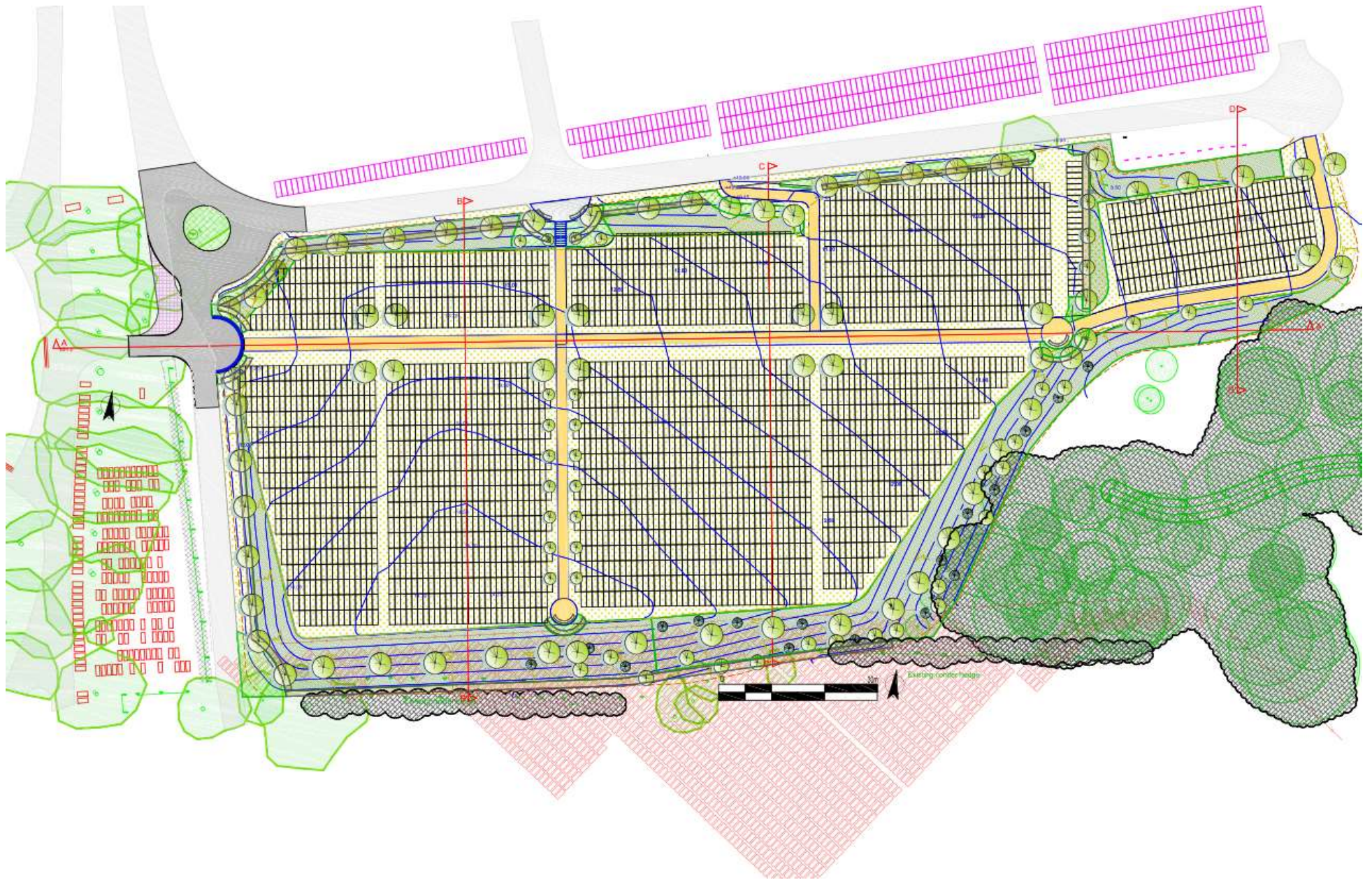


Fig.4: Site proposal plan, showing new contours (blue), new grave plots (black and yellow gridded areas), and existing graves to north & south (purple and red). From Harrison design development, Drawing no: 069-01-25 C

3.2 Archaeology and history

- 3.2.1 Aldersbrook was historically within the Forest of Essex and the name is derived from the Saxon *ealden hile*, which was the name of a secondary branch of the River Roding.
- 3.2.2 It is believed that the Manor of Aldersbrook was originally part of the Manor of Wanstead, to the north of the study site. However, by the early 16th century the Aldersbrook was a separate entity with a property known alternately as *Nakedhall Hawe*, *Naked Hall Grove* or *Alderbroke*, and was held by Sir John Heron and his son Giles (executed for his support of Thomas More in 1540). The Crown subsequently granted the Manor to the Knevett family, and later to the Addington family. The Manor passed through several hands during the 16th and 17th centuries, including the Earls of Leicester. In 1693 the land was sold to John Lethieullier, descendent of French Huguenots, who passed it on to his son Smart Lethieullier.
- 3.2.3 Rocque depicts the estate in the mid-18th century (Fig.5 below), and shows a property with formal gardens to the south. These included a ‘Great Canal’ possibly crossed by bridges, and a parterre area further to the south, with a separate walled kitchen garden surrounding the ‘New Barn’ to the southwest. The development site occupies the central and western part of the Great Canal and the northern part of the kitchen gardens. The area of the modern catacombs to the west of the development site was once occupied by the ‘Great Pond’; a long expanse of water formed by damming the eastern end of a valley from which a stream flowed into the River Roding to the east. The continuation of this stream was probably also utilised to create the ‘canal’ further to the east. Unfortunately no detailed plans of the estate at this time survive.
- 3.2.4 Smart’s niece Mary and her husband Edward Hulse eventually sold the Manor to their neighbour Sir James Long in c1786, and Aldersbrook once again merged with the Manor of Wanstead. Its new owner had no use for the property itself and subsequently demolished the house – probably also clearing the site of formal gardens, ancillary structures, and so forth.
- 3.2.5 In 1854 the former Aldersbrook estate was largely sold to the City of London and the ground converted into a cemetery more or less as exists today. However, the area of ‘The Shoot’ was part of what was known as the ‘Reserved Lands’, set aside for future expansion. Therefore the first edition OS map (Fig.6) shows the site much as it probably appeared at the beginning of the century; occupying the same plots and with the area of the ‘Great Canal’ still discernible in the landscape. An open culvert draining towards Aldersbrook to the east also bisected the ground to the east. The remainder of the culvert runs underground from the area of the Catacombs immediately west of the site and was necessary to aid drainage of the area which used to be the Great Pond. It is assumed that the site retained a similar profile to the original ground, but with localised truncation of deposits in the area of the culvert.

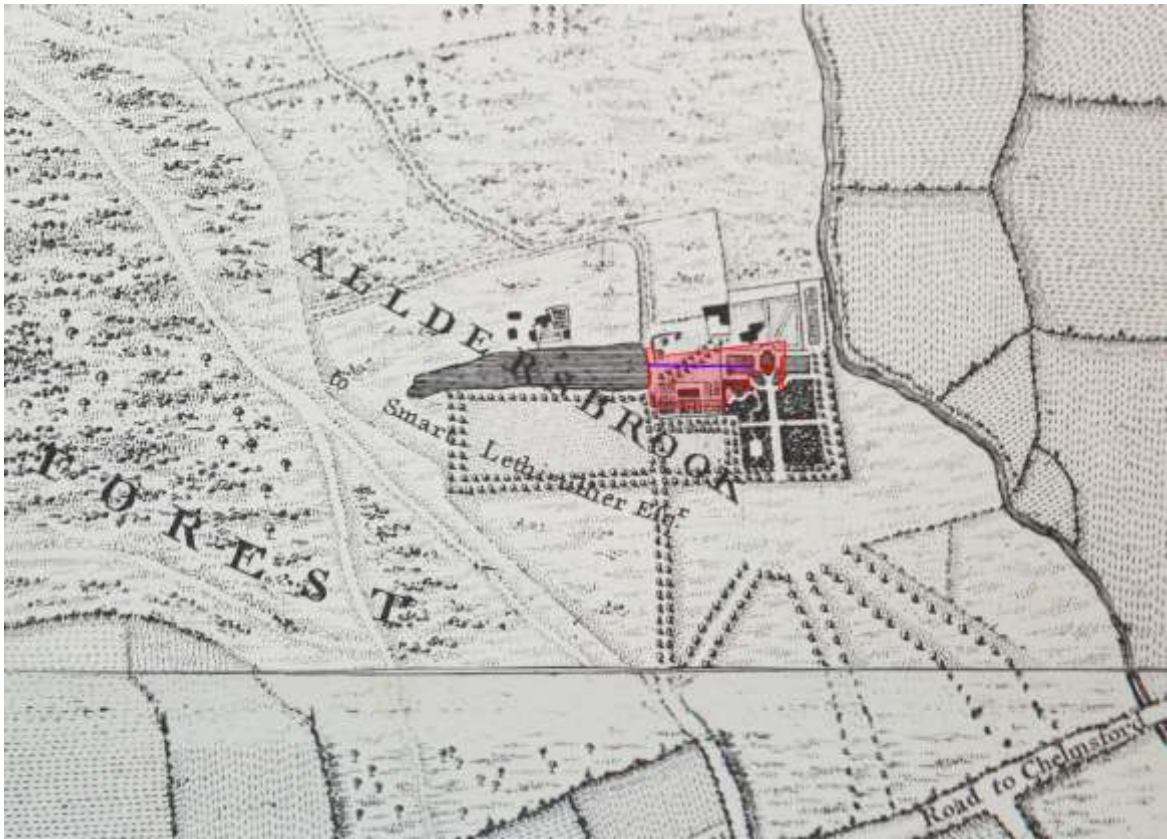


Fig.5: The site (shaded red) located on Rocque's Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster, c 1746

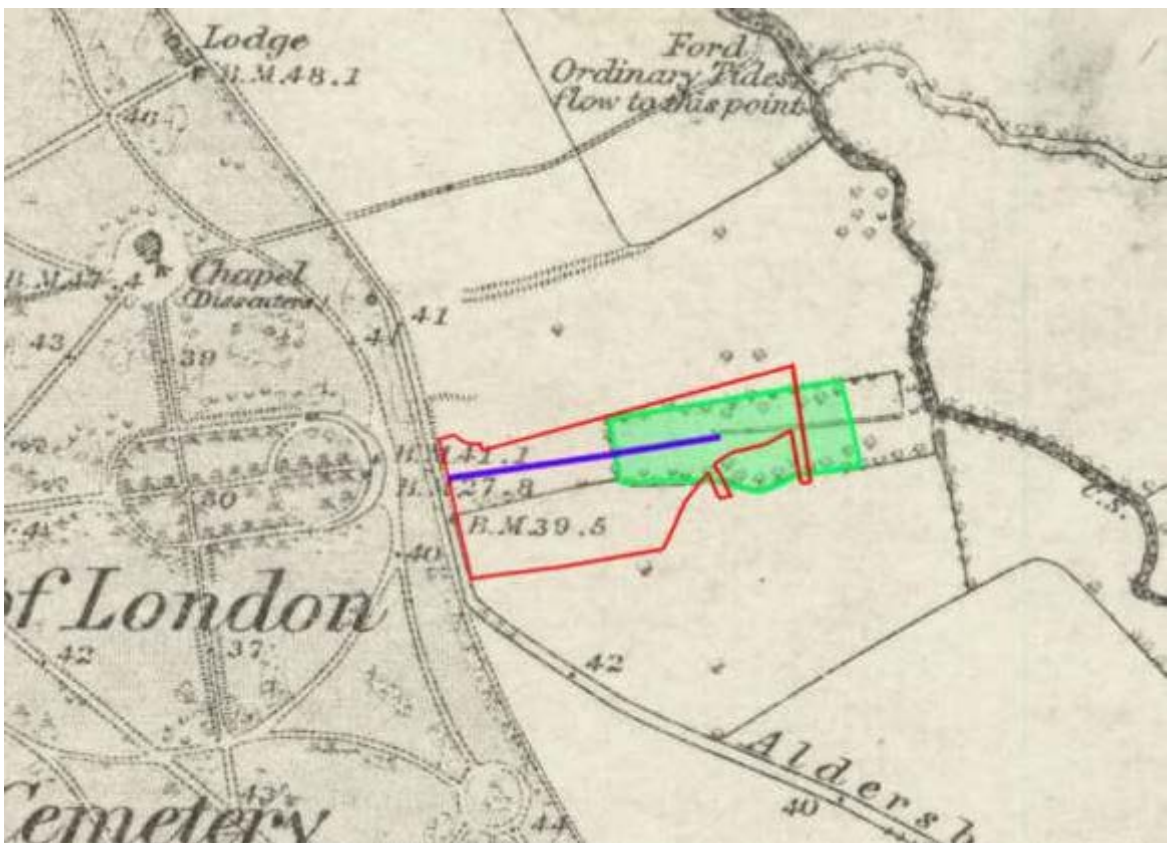


Fig.6: The site located on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25-inch map of c.1863, showing the site, (red), culvert, (blue), and historic landscape features, (green)

- 3.2.6** It was from the second half of the 19th century that the southern edge of the site was also used for ‘public burials’: deeply dug graves which would be used to inter several unrelated individuals, with each coffin being fully covered before interment of the next individual (often in the same day). This meant that the lowest grave took the most effort and was the most costly. These burials are therefore of archaeological interest in that they can provide a snapshot of individuals within a specific socio-economic group within a relatively well-defined time period.
- 3.2.7** By 1938 the area of ‘The Shoot’ had already begun to be used to store soil, indicated by the labelling of the site with ‘Rises’ on the contemporary Ordnance Survey map. By 1960 the site had undergone more intensive development, with the western area largely redesigned around several new buildings. These included a T-shaped structure, a mortuary, which was built to serve civilian dead during the Second World War but was never used. This structure occupied the concrete platform that still exists today and was demolished in 2004. A circuit of paths (no longer present) entered the site from the north and west and led towards a drop in ground levels to the east, over the area of the former ‘Great Canal’. This reflects the fact that the ground to the west had been built up from the arisings of interments, as indicated on the 1938 map. It is from this period onwards that the level of arisings increases and the majority of the soil forming the modern mounds derive, it is understood much from the creation of the modern Crematorium. It is noteworthy that the area of the ‘Great Canal’ is still visible / preserved in the landscape at this point, suggesting limited change in site levels to the south.
- 3.2.8** Between late-1972 and mid-1973 excavations took place ahead of construction of the Roding Valley Trunk Sewer. Trial trenches located to the northeast of ‘The Shoot’ located evidence of a terrace and retaining / garden walls associated with the 18th century Lethieullier occupation. A 3.5m wide ditch on the eastern side of the terrace wall contained substantial quantities of late 17th and 18th century pottery, believed to have been derived from household clearance when the Lethieullier family sold the estate in 1786. Monitoring of the final sewer trench revealed a potential ‘terraced walk or walled bank’ on the northern edge of the ‘Great Canal’¹.

¹ Camp, J, (1976)

4. Aims and objectives of the evaluation

4.1 Archaeology and planning

The proposed development comprises landscaping and development of the site area to accommodate future burials, including clearance and groundworks, installation of drainage and access routes, and tree and shrub planting (LB of Newham Planning Ref: 14/01187/FUL). The planning consent includes an archaeological condition (No.3) in accordance with Council policies. A preliminary archaeological evaluation of the site was recommended by Historic England as part of the planning process, further to the condition on planning consent.

4.2 The archaeological brief

The accepted brief for archaeological evaluation is to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment (English Heritage, *Model Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*). This will provide a basis on which decisions can be taken as to the need for any further archaeological action (eg, preservation *in situ* or further archaeological investigation), or for no further action.

In addition, a site-specific *Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation* was produced (Compass Archaeology, May 2015).

4.3 Archaeological research questions

The evaluation presented an opportunity to address several broad and more specific research questions, as defined in the preliminary Written Scheme of Investigation:

- Do any remains survive of the designed landscape of Aldersbrook Manor; especially the ‘Great Canal’, kitchen gardens, or manor house itself?
- At what level to the uppermost ‘public graves’ survive along the south of the site and are they likely to be affected by ground stripping?
- What form does the natural geology of the area take and does this conform to the known BGS information?

5. Evaluation methodology

5.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (including *Standards for Archaeological Work*, 2015) and those of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, 2014). A Written Scheme was produced and agreed prior to the start of fieldwork.

5.2 The main area of field evaluation comprised three trial trenches, located as shown on Figure 7 within the present open lawn area and in the northeastern part of the proposed development. The trenches were set out primarily to identify any potential remains associated with the formal landscape and garden of Aldersbrook Manor as

described above (3.2.3, *etc*). Each trench was proposed to measured 15m by 2m in plan, with two trenches aligned approximately north-south and the central third trench east-west. In the event it was decided in the course of the fieldwork (and in consultation with Historic England) to align all three trenches roughly north-south and parallel.

The trenches were opened by JCB and 360°mechanical excavators, using toothless grading buckets and working under archaeological supervision. Recent deposits and made ground were removed to depths generally between 1.0m to just over 2.0m (increasing markedly to the south). Thereafter the exposed surfaces and sections were investigated by hand, recorded, drawn and photographed.

5.3 The second part of the evaluation comprised located series of 10 test pits along the southern perimeter of the site and in the area of recorded 19th century ‘public’ graves, as shown on Figure 40. The nominal measurement for these was 2m by 1m in plan (in practice slightly wider due to the width of the available grading bucket). The pits were aligned across the orientation of the known graves as shown on plan (roughly NW-SE; see Fig.41).

5.4 Archaeological deposits and features exposed in the evaluation were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets and by scaled plan and section drawings, supplemented by digital photography. Levels were derived from the existing site survey (*cf.* Fig.3 above).

The evaluation trench and test pit positions were also located onto the existing site survey, and in turn related to the Ordnance Survey grid.

The records from the evaluation have been allocated the site code SHT15 by the Museum of London Archaeological Archive. The site records will be ordered and indexed in line with the MoL *Guidelines* and will be deposited in the Archive.

6. The archaeological evaluation

6.1 The evaluation trenches – summary

The evaluation trenches were dug in an open area close to the northeast corner of the site (Fig.7). The modern surface here was fairly level, although dropping gently from the northwest to southeast (c 8.2m to 7.5m OD). Machine excavation took place either to identifiable archaeological features (principally in the easternmost trench), or to a more or less sterile natural subsoil. The bulk of the material removed was quite recent, ranging in depth from some 1.0m to over 2.0m. This evidently formed part of general and substantial build up/levelling of the land surface in this part of the site.

Deposits and features were then cleaned by hand and recorded, with further localised hand excavation taking place where necessary. Overall the sequence was quite straightforward, with a broadly single phase of archaeology in the eastern trench and discrete features over the natural subsoil in the other two trenches.

6.1.1 The recorded contexts

Context no.	Description	Interpretation	Date
<i>Trench 1</i>			
1	Fairly dark grey-brown sandy silty with pebbles, darker & more silty to south	Buried soil horizon	c 1800-1970s
2	Firm mid-light brown to grey silty sand, darker & more stony to south	Made ground deposits sealing 18 th century garden features	1790s
3	Linear (E-W) of compact sandy gravel, c 2.4m wide & up to 180mm thick	Garden path, to the south of and parallel with wall (7)	c mid 18 th century
4	Firm light brown sandy silt with scattered brick & mortar frags.	Infill behind (N of) wall (7)	“ “
5	Mid-dark brown slightly sandy silt with pebbles, darker/more silty & fewer pebbles to south	Buried soil horizon	“ “
6	Dark grey-brown sandy silt + gravel	Localised deposit in front (S) of wall (7)	“ “
7	E-W brick wall base, up to 880mm wide and surviving to c 600mm high	Terrace retaining wall	“ “
8	Mid-light grey brown gravelly silt with occasional sandy patches	Natural subsoil	—

<i>Trench 2</i>			
9	Mid-dark grey slightly sandy silt	Remnants of buried soil horizon	c 1800-1970s
10	Mid grey silt with fragmentary brick inclusions	Reworked/disturbed backfill over drain (11)	18 th C+
11	E-W brick feature, up to c 0.7m wide x at least 0.4m deep, plus associated construction cut into (12)	Brick built & arched drain	c mid 18 th century
12	Firm mid-light brownish grey silt with scattered pebbles	Natural subsoil	–
<i>Trench 3</i>			
13	Mid-dark grey slightly sandy silt, becoming lighter brown to base	Buried soil horizon	c 1800-1970s
14	E-W linear feature, bowl-shaped cross section up to c 0.9m wide by 0.3m deep	Small gully or ditch	?18 th century
15	Mid-light grey brown gravelly silt	Natural subsoil	–

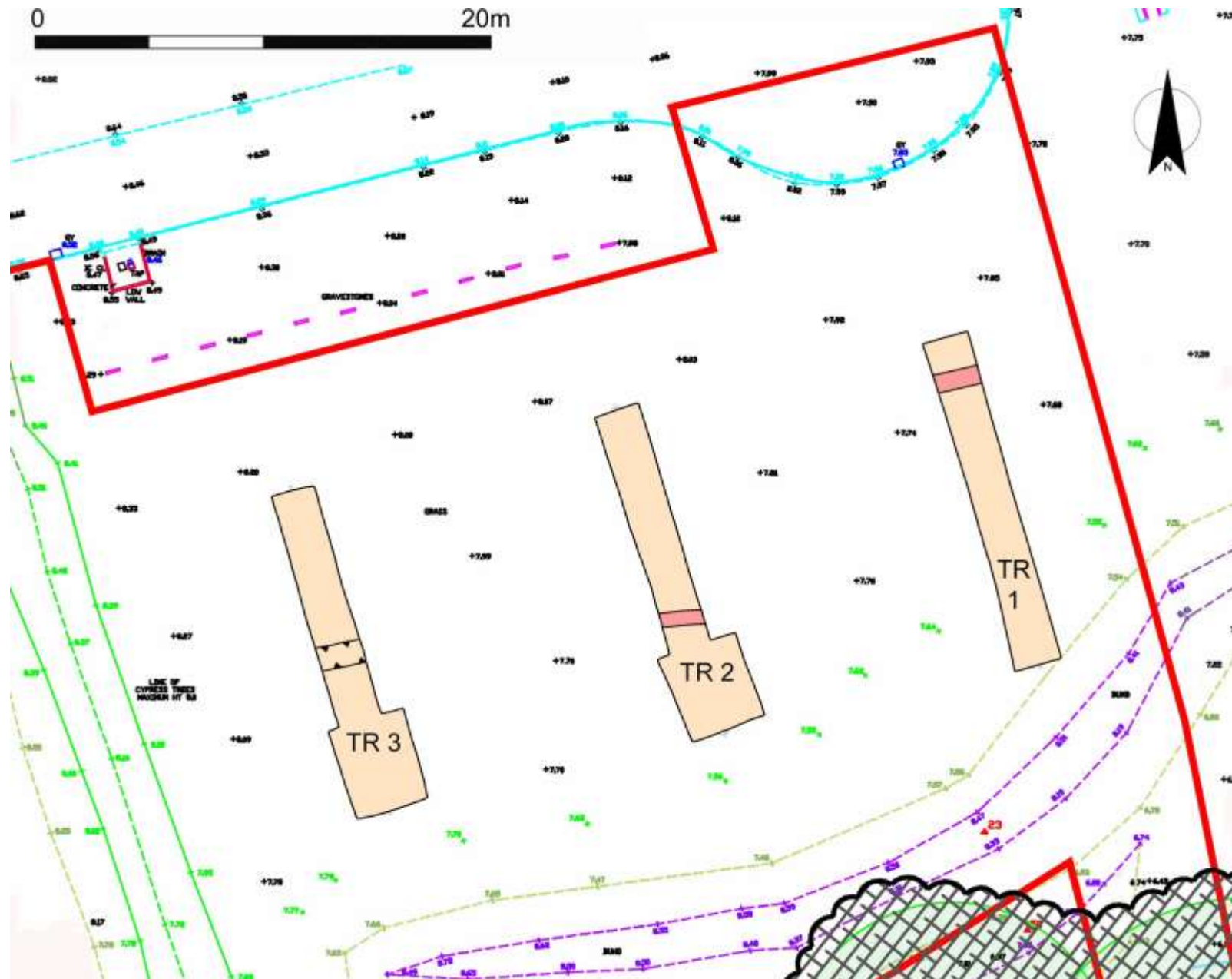


Fig.7: Location of the evaluation trenches and principal features.

Based on an extract from the existing site plan, Fig.3 above

6.2 Trench 1

- 6.2.1** Trench 1 was dug by machine on an approximate south to north alignment and ranged from about 2.5m to 1.m in depth (decreasing to the north). The deepest part was hand-dug, as a localised slot/sondage against the west-facing section (see Fig.13).
- 6.2.2** Natural gravely silt subsoil (8) was exposed throughout the centre and northern part of the trench, although depth of excavation precluded exposure of this deposit towards the southern end.
- 6.2.3** Stratigraphically the earliest feature overlying the subsoil was the east-west brick wall base (7), towards the northern end of the trench. To the north the wall retained a made ground layer (4), presumably part of the same construction and forming part of a terrace – of probable mid 18th century date and originally rising up towards the main house. The wall itself was up to 880mm wide at the base, stepping in at the upper surviving level to about 680mm. It is assumed therefore that it was originally considerably higher, and retained a substantial bank of made ground to the north – perhaps up to something approaching the modern ground surface. The bricks themselves were broadly dated to 1600-1800, though most likely the latter part of this period (Appendix III).

Projecting out at the base/rear of the wall was a single course of brickwork which appears to form no practical function (Figs.17 & 19). It is possible that this relates to an earlier construction (or possibly a change in plan), although there was no definite evidence for either conclusion. The brick sample here appeared to be slightly earlier, possibly 17th century.

- 6.2.4** To the south the wall (7) was abutted by two stratigraphically later deposits, the localised dump (6) and the more general sandy silt horizon (5). The latter was in turn overlain by an east-west band of gravel (3), almost certainly a path running parallel with (& some 4.6m south of) the external face of the terrace wall (7). Context (5) produced three sherds of pottery typical of the mid 16th – 18th century. (Appendix I), and one mid-later 17th century clay pipe bowl (Appendix II).
- 6.2.5** It is likely that all the features described above appear to form parts of a single development, namely the development of the formal terraced garden of Aldersbrook Manor in the 18th century. There was no evidence for an earlier soil profile between these and the underlying subsoil (8), and it may well be that the previous ground surface was also stripped as part of this development.
- 6.2.6** The deposits forming context (2) seal the partially demolished wall (7) and associated embankment (4), as well as the gravel path (3) and adjacent surfaces. It is likely that these events date to the late 18th century, when the Aldersbrook estate was sold off and the house subsequently demolished. Apparently the formal garden and terraces were also levelled and the area returned to a more naturalistic slope.

Context (2) was overlain by a darker and more homogeneous soil profile (1), which appears to have formed the ground surface until a major build-up and levelling of the area took place in the later 20th century –most probably the 1970s. In the area of Trench 1 this ranged in depth from some 0.45m to 1.60m, increasing from north to south (see Fig.13).



Fig.8: *Evaluation Trench 1 after initial excavation and cleaning, looking south with the top of the wall (7) in foreground (1m scale)*



Fig.9: Trench 1 after initial excavation and cleaning, looking north with remnant of the buried soil horizon (1) in foreground (1m scale)



Fig.10: *Plan of Trench 1 showing principal features and section location*



Fig.11: *Oblique view of Trench 1 looking southeast*



Fig.12: *Oblique view of Trench 1 looking NNE (1m scale)*

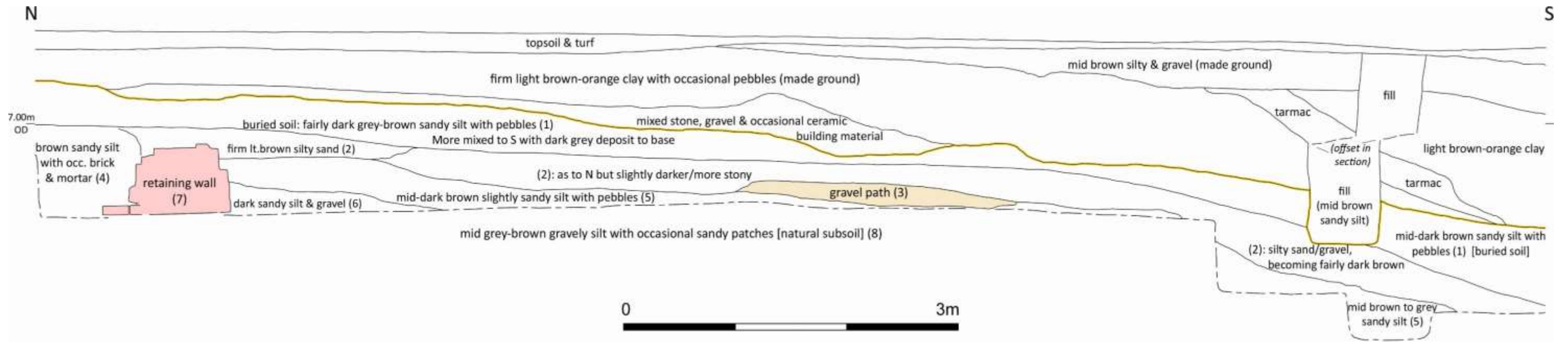


Fig.13: Long section of the west-facing side of Trench 1 (see Fig.10 for location).

Presumed 18th century features are represented by the retaining wall (7), made ground (4) and parallel path (3), plus the probable associated surface of (5). The truncation of the wall/retained ground and the deposit (2) which seal these and the path (3), *etc.*, to the south probably all date to the demolition of the Aldersbrook Manor, *c* 1790.

The continuous overlying layer (1) is interpreted as a buried soil horizon, forming the post-1790s ground surface. All deposits above this level – denoted here and in subsequent sections by the superimposed yellow line – are quite recent, probably 1970s.



Fig.14: Northern end of Trench 1 showing the top and external (south) face of the brick retaining wall (7) (1m scale)



Fig.15: Northern end of Trench 1: top & rear of wall (7), with retained deposit (4) in the foreground



Fig.16: Trench 1: view of wall (7) and adjacent west-facing trench section after partial excavation (on left of frame) of the retained deposit (4)



Fig.17: Oblique view of wall (7) and partially-excavated deposit (4) to the rear, looking southwest (1m scale)



Fig.18: Trench 1: detail of the external (south) face of the retaining wall (7) (0.5m scale)



Fig.19: Detail of the rear (north) face and base of the retaining wall (7), after partial excavation of the retained deposit (4)



Fig.20: *The southern end of Trench 1, west-facing section & southeast corner (1m scale)*



Fig.21: *The southern end of Trench 1, west-facing section. The pre-1970s land surface is just below the top of the scale – & denoted to the right of the frame by a piece of plastic*

6.3 Trench 2

- 6.3.1** Trench 2 was excavated on more or less the same south to north alignment as Trench 1, and ranged from about 2.2m to 1.4m in depth (decreasing to the north). The principal difference in excavation methodology was that the southern end of the trench (as also Trench 3) was stepped out to facilitate the deeper excavation here.
- 6.3.2** A natural subsoil of silt with scattered pebbles (12) was exposed throughout the central and northern parts of the trench, although once again depth of excavation precluded exposure of this deposit at the southern end.
- 6.3.3** The only significant feature was an east-west brick drain (11), which ran across the southern part of the trench. The drain was some 620mm wide at the top, stepping out to about 700mm at a lower level. The internal channel was exposed in one area, and was about 230mm wide – roughly the same as each of the enclosing walls. A sample of the brick was broadly dated to 1450-1750, though most likely the latter part of this period; 17th to early 18th century (Appendix III).
- 6.3.4** A shallow deposit overlying the stepped sides of the drain (10) is probably derived from the original construction backfill, but disturbed by subsequent activity following the demise of Aldersbrook Manor and apparent re-landscaping of this area (as described above, 6.2.6).

As little as 60mm of the soil horizon (9) sealed the top of the drain – itself partly collapsed (Fig.27). It seems clear therefore that this whole area was regraded, and in some areas previously terraced land surfaces reduced, at the end of the 18th century. Context (9) produced one sherd of post-medieval Black-glazed Redware pot, of probable of 17th to 18th century date (Appendix 1).

- 6.3.5** Context (9) was overlain by thick made ground deposits – some 0.95m to 1.75m deep, and clearly forming a continuation of those observed in Trench 1. Again these contained modern material such as plastic, and most probably date to the 1970s.



Fig.22: Trench 2 seen from northern end after initial excavation and cleaning (1m scale)



Fig.23: Trench 2 after initial excavation and cleaning, looking north with root disturbance in the foreground and probable 18th century brick drain (11) beyond (1m scale)

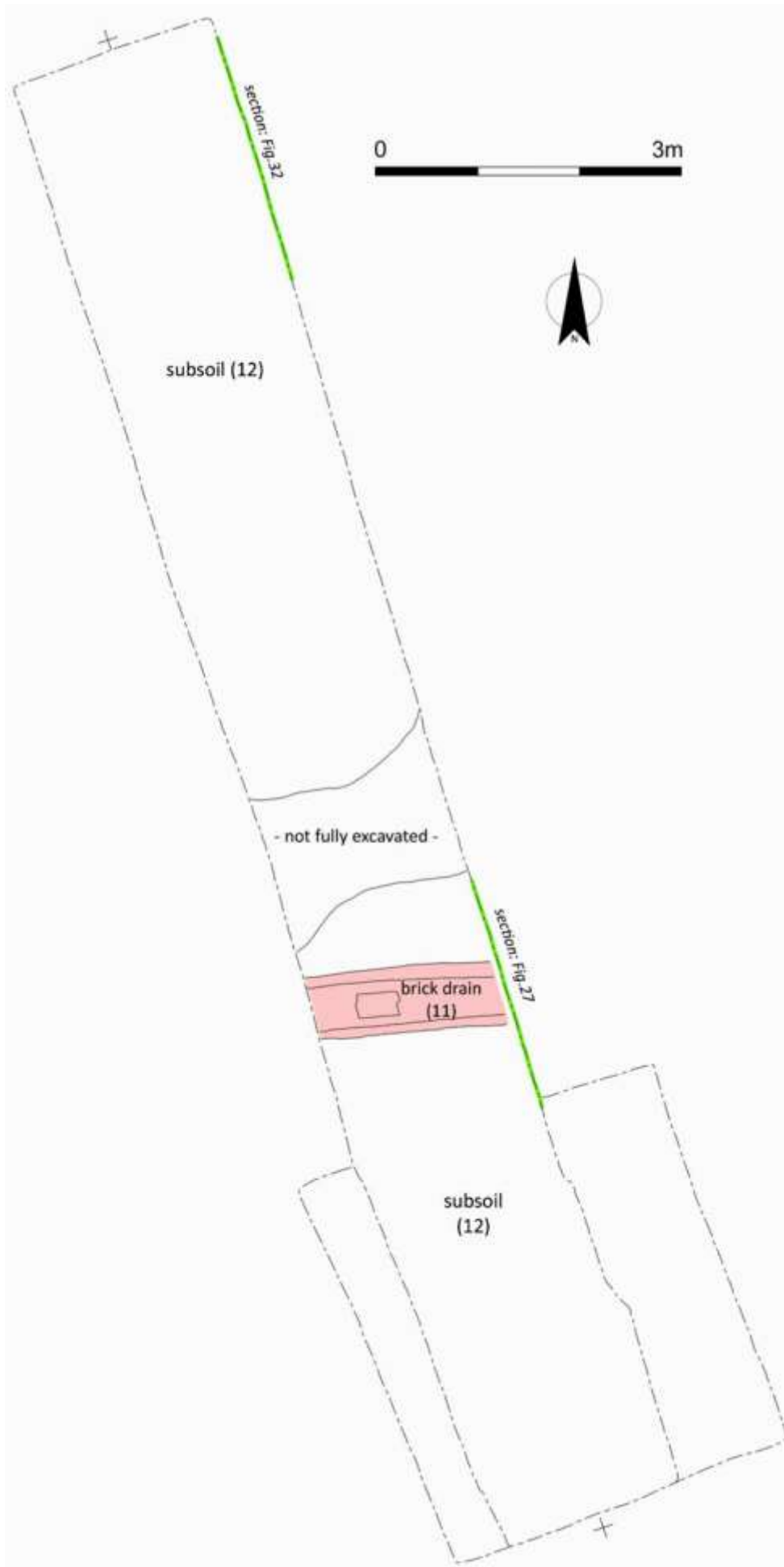


Fig.24: Plan of Trench 2 showing principal features & section locations



Fig.25: Oblique view of Trench 2 looking southeast. At least two-thirds of the deposits seen in the west-facing section (increasing to the south) are modern, probably 1970s (1m scale)



Fig.26: Oblique view of the southern part and southeast corner of Trench 2, including the probable 18th century brick drain (11) (1m scale)

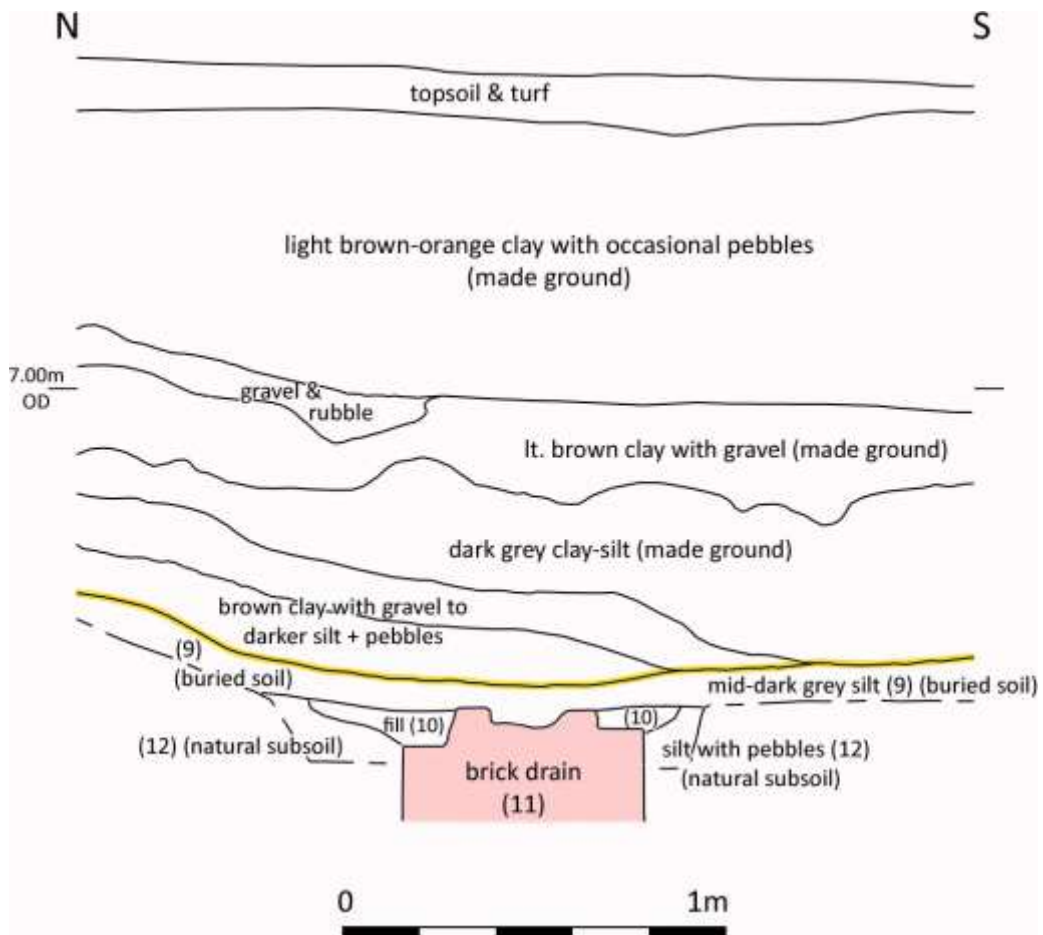


Fig.27: Trench 2: the west-facing section in the area of drain (11). Deposits above the yellow line are quite recent, probably 1970s



Fig.28: *Detail of the brick drain (11), looking northeast. To the left of the frame the arch survives more or less intact, with the interior exposed to the right of this (0.5m scale)*



Fig.29: *Overhead view of the drain (11), approx. north to the left of the frame*



Fig.30: Detail of the western end of the brick drain (11), showing the intact arch with exposed interior in the foreground (0.3m scale)



Fig.31: View of the west-facing section at the northern end of Trench 2 (1m scale)

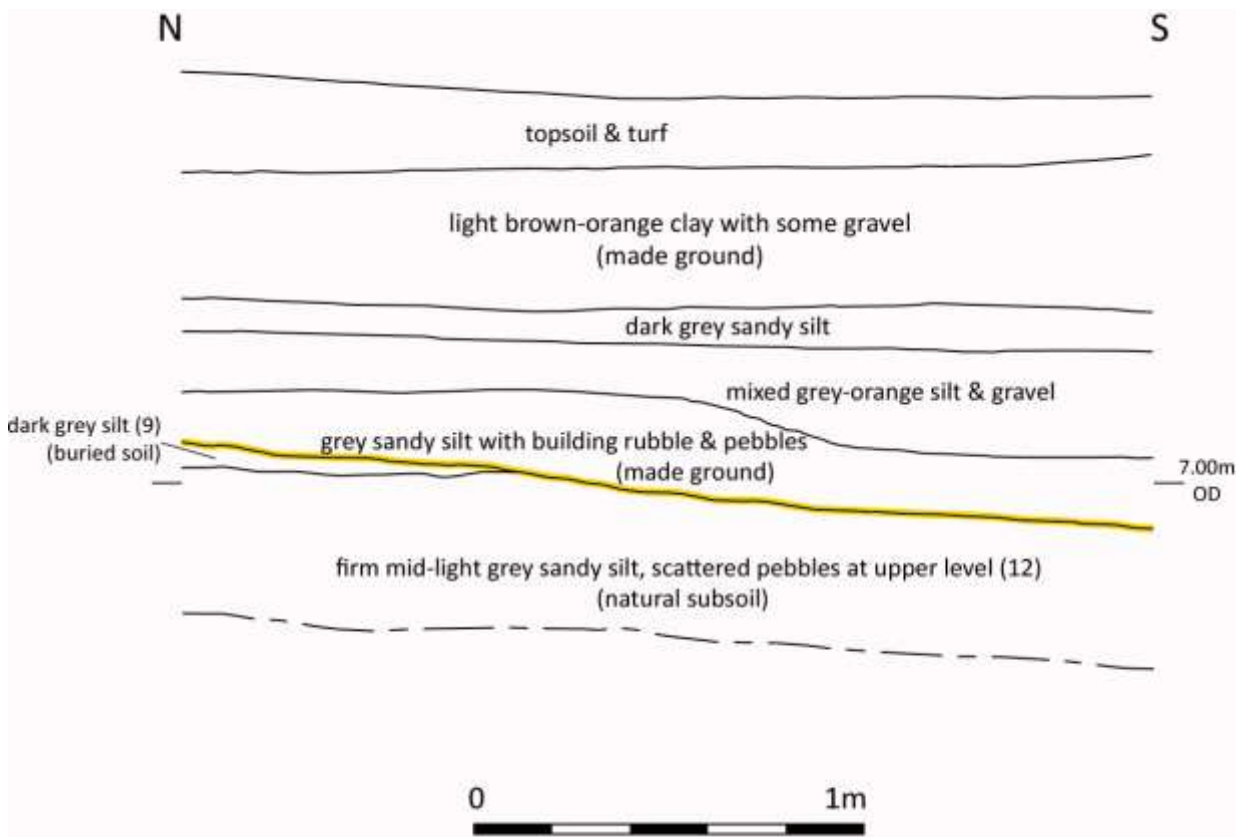


Fig.32: Drawing of the above section. A truncated soil horizon is overlain above the yellow line by quite recent made ground, probably 1970s

6.4 Trench 3

- 6.4.1** Trench 3 was dug on a very similar alignment to the other trenches, and ranged from about 2.1m to 1.05m in depth (decreasing to the north). As in Trench 2 the southern end of the trench was stepped out to facilitate the deeper excavation.
- 6.4.2** A natural subsoil of gravel silt (15) was exposed throughout the central and northern parts of the trench, with depth of excavation precluding exposure of this deposit at the southern end.
- 6.4.3** There were no structural remains in Trench 3, and the feature of note was a relatively small east-west gully or ditch (14). This ran across the central part of the trench, and was some 900mm wide at the top by up to 300mm deep. Reference to Fig.7 shows that the feature is on roughly the same alignment as the brick-lined drain (11) in Trench 2, and it is just possible that the two are related – the open gully running downhill into an enclosed drain. However, there is no conclusive evidence for this, or for the date of (14).
- 6.4.4** The gully and adjacent surface of (15) was overlain by a buried soil horizon (13), assumed to be contiguous with that represented by (1) in Trench 1 and (9) in Trench 2 – and therefore postdating the destruction of Aldersbrook Manor at the end of the 18th century.
- 6.4.5** Context (13) was in turn sealed by modern made ground deposits – some 0.90m to 2.05m deep to both raise and level up the previous surface, and clearly forming a continuation of those observed in Trenches 1 and 2.



Fig.33: Trench 3 viewed from northern end after initial excavation and cleaning. The area in the foreground/centre has been reduced to the level of the sterile subsoil (15) (1m scale)



Fig.34: Trench 3 from southern end after initial excavation and cleaning. The lower part of the buried soil horizon (13) is visible in the foreground

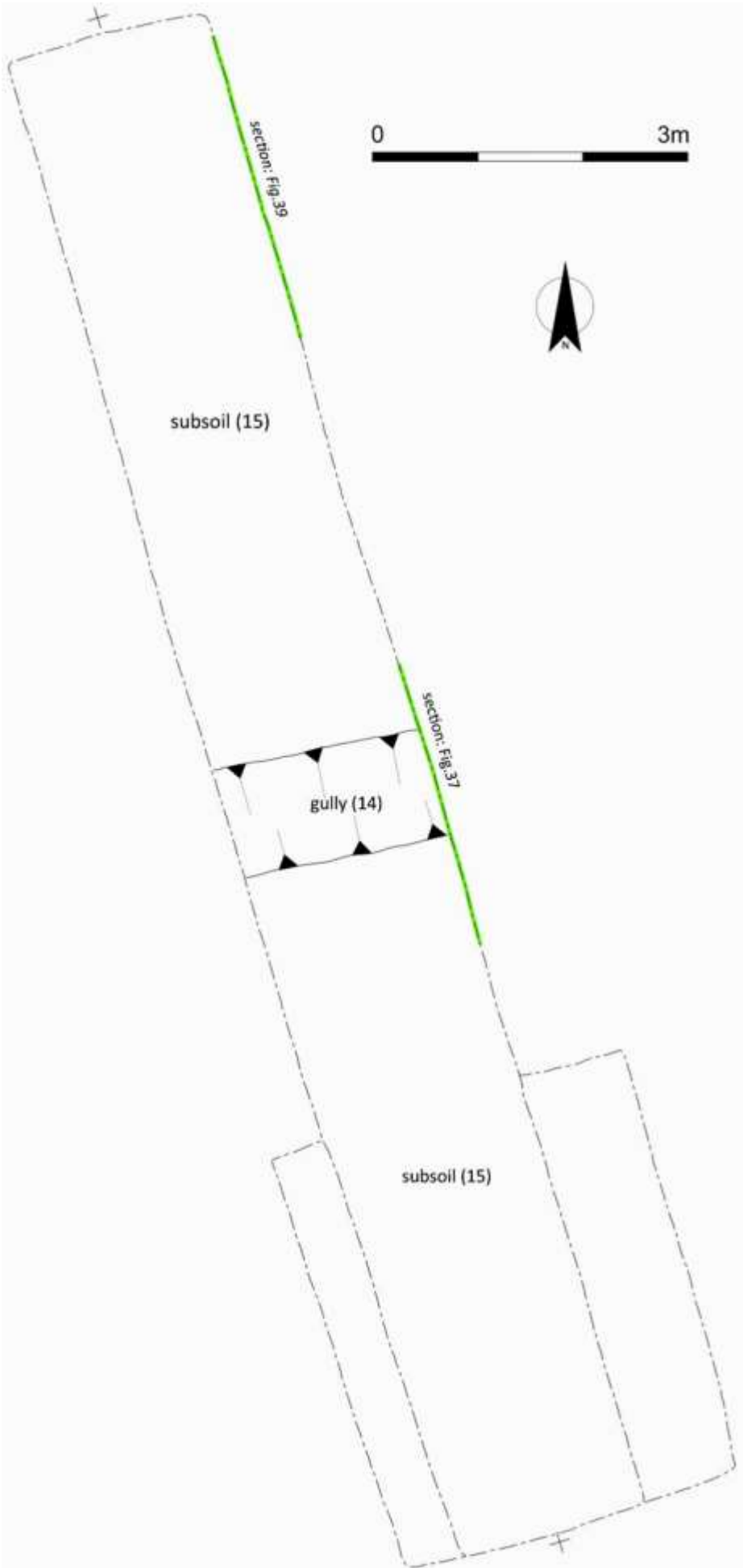


Fig.35: Plan of Trench 3 showing principal features and section locations



Fig.36: View of the west-facing section above the gully (14) in the centre of Trench 3 (1m scale)

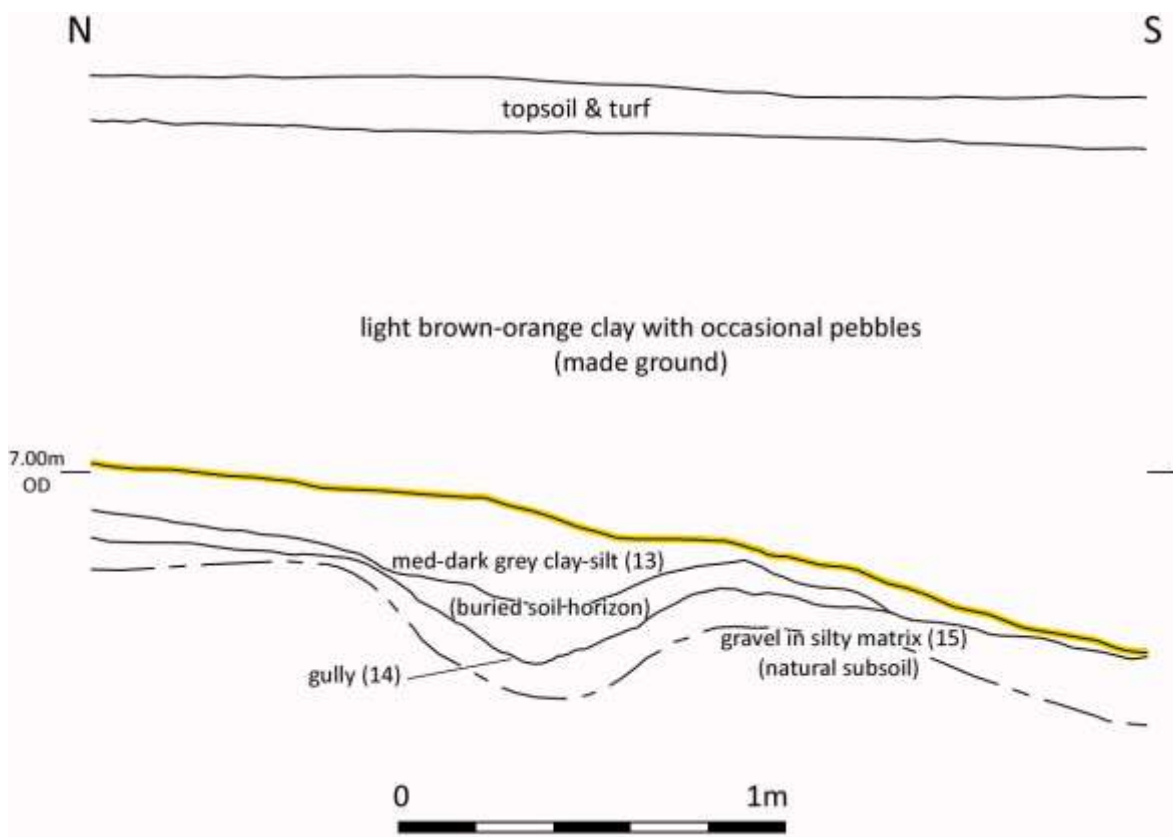


Fig.37: Drawing of the above section. The dark grey buried soil is overlain above the yellow line by a thick layer of recent made ground, probably 1970s



Fig.38: View of the west-facing section at the northern end of Trench 3 (1m scale)

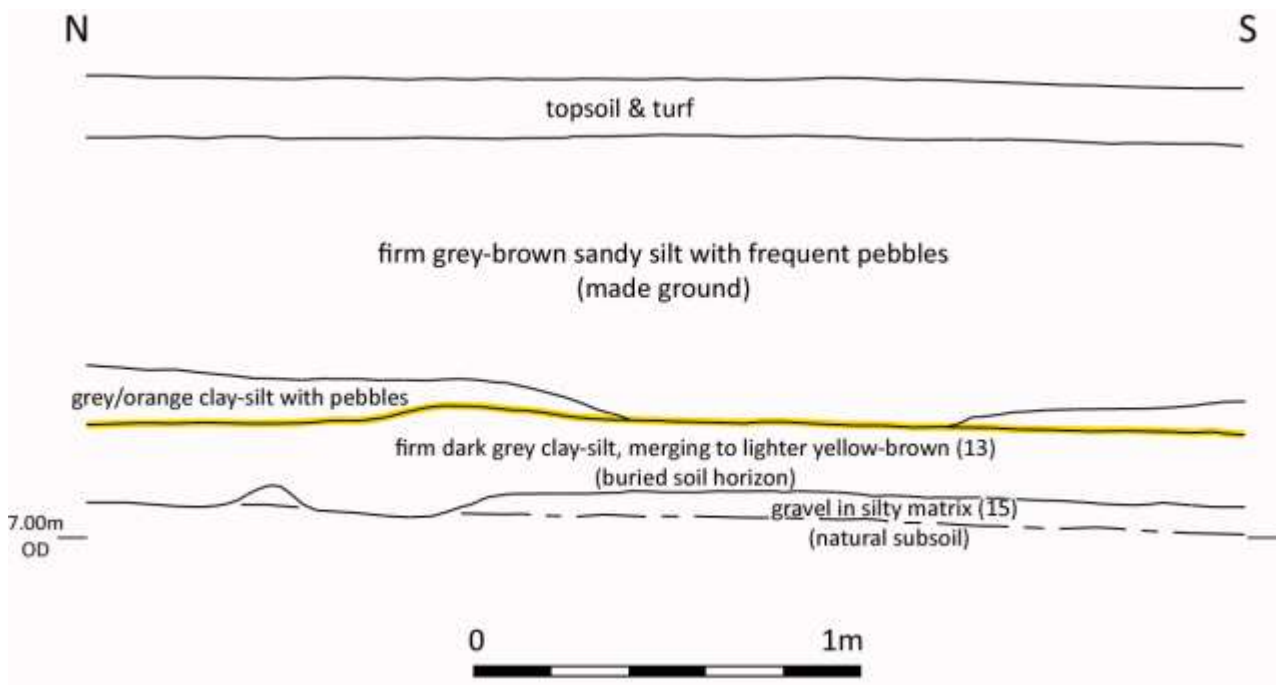


Fig.39: Drawing of the above section. The buried soil horizon (13) is overlain above the yellow line by recent made ground, probably 1970s

6.5 The test pits

Ten test pits were located along the southern side of the site, within an area that is historically recorded as containing 19th century public (*ie.*, multiple) burials (Figs.40-41 overleaf).

Proposed formation levels for the embanked perimeter in this area are generally no more than 0.5m below present ground level, although greater (*c* 0.8m) near the eastern and western ends. To allow a margin of error the test pits were excavated to a slightly deeper level, adding about 300mm to the indicative construction figures (see 6.5.1 below).

In the event no significant remains were discovered. Seven of the ten pits revealed cuts into the natural ground and backfills, most (though probably not all) of which presumably represent the upper level of 19th century graves. However, there was no evidence at all that the proposed groundworks would impact upon or disturb buried human remains.

The results are summarised below, collectively in 6.5.1 and then individually in the following sections (6.5.2 to 6.5.10). In each the southwest-facing section of the pit and base of the pit are illustrated, with further interpretative notes as appropriate.

6.5.1

Pit no.	Dimensions (m)	Surface level on SW-facing section (mOD)	Base level on SW-facing section (mOD)	Approximate depth of pit (m)	Evidence for possible grave cuts?
1	1.25 x 2.10	11.70	10.79	0.90	Y
2	1.25 x 2.00	11.67	10.58	1.10	Y
3	1.25 x 2.00	11.43	10.64	0.80	Y
4	1.27 x 2.00	11.33	10.47	0.85	Y
5	1.30 x 2.00	11.18	10.34	0.85	Y
6	1.25 x 2.05	10.93	10.08	0.85	N
7	1.25 x 2.00	10.89	10.10	0.80	N
8	1.30 x 1.90	11.18	10.08	1.10	N
9	1.30 x 1.85	10.97	9.85	1.10	Y
10	1.30 x 2.15	10.25	9.51	0.75	Y

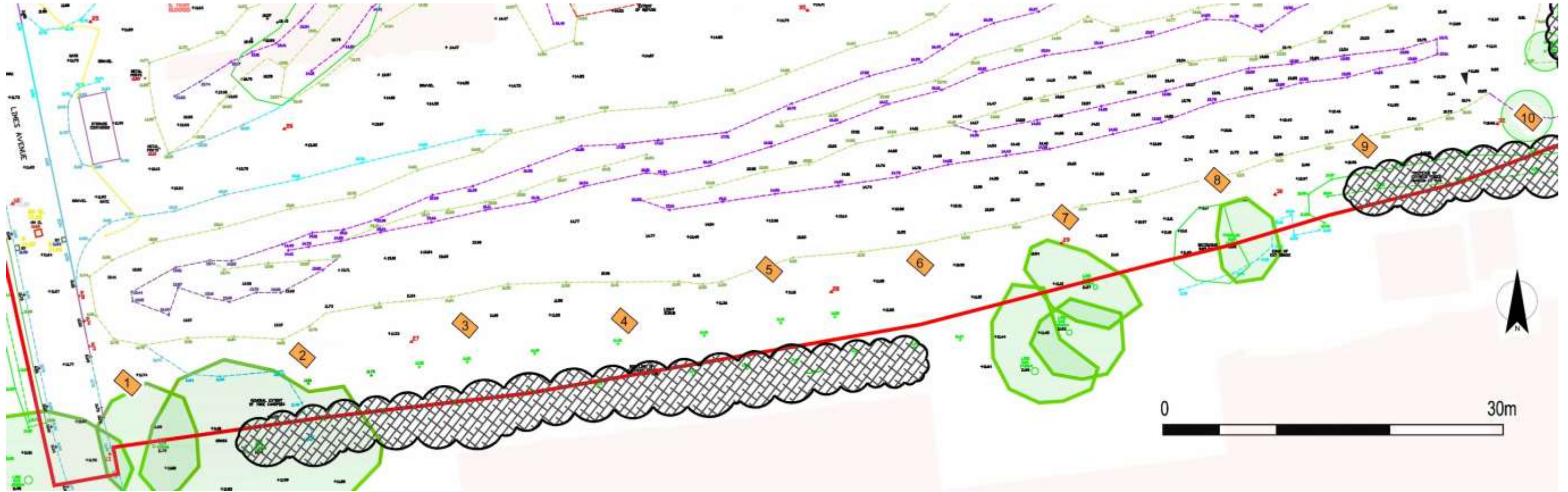


Fig.40: Location of the test pits (1-10) on the southern side of the application site. Based on an extract from the existing site plan; cf. Fig.3

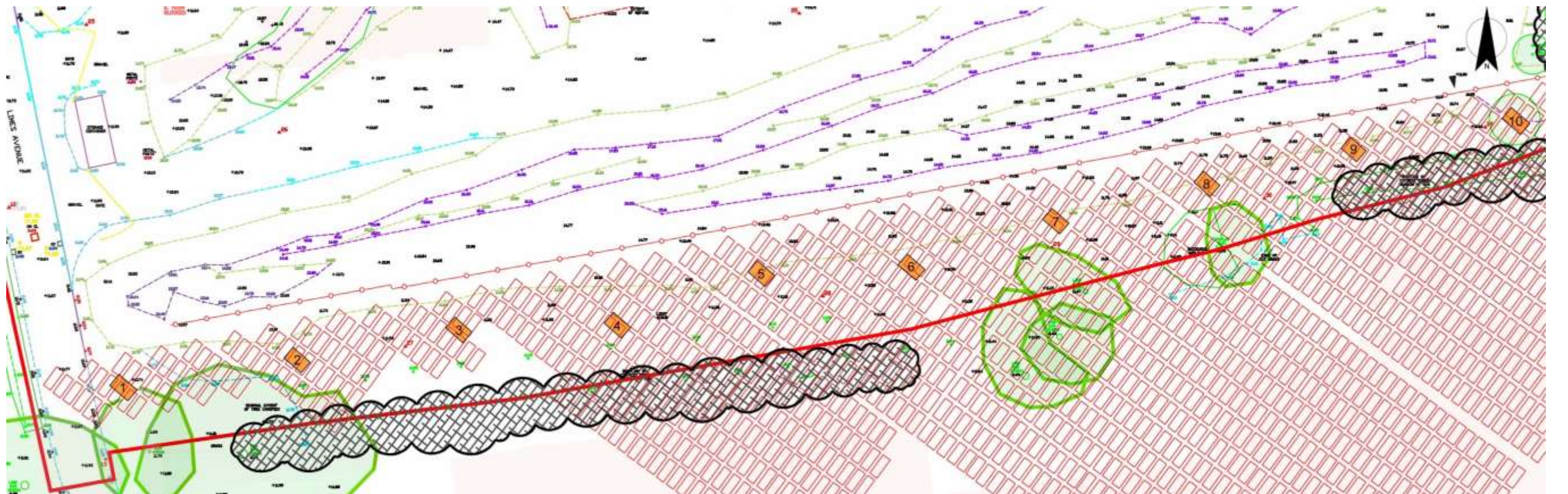


Fig.41: Location of recorded 19th century burial plots in relation to the test pits

6.5.2 Test pit 1



Fig.42: Southwest-facing section of Test pit 1 (0.8m scale)



Fig.43: Overhead view of the pit from the southwest

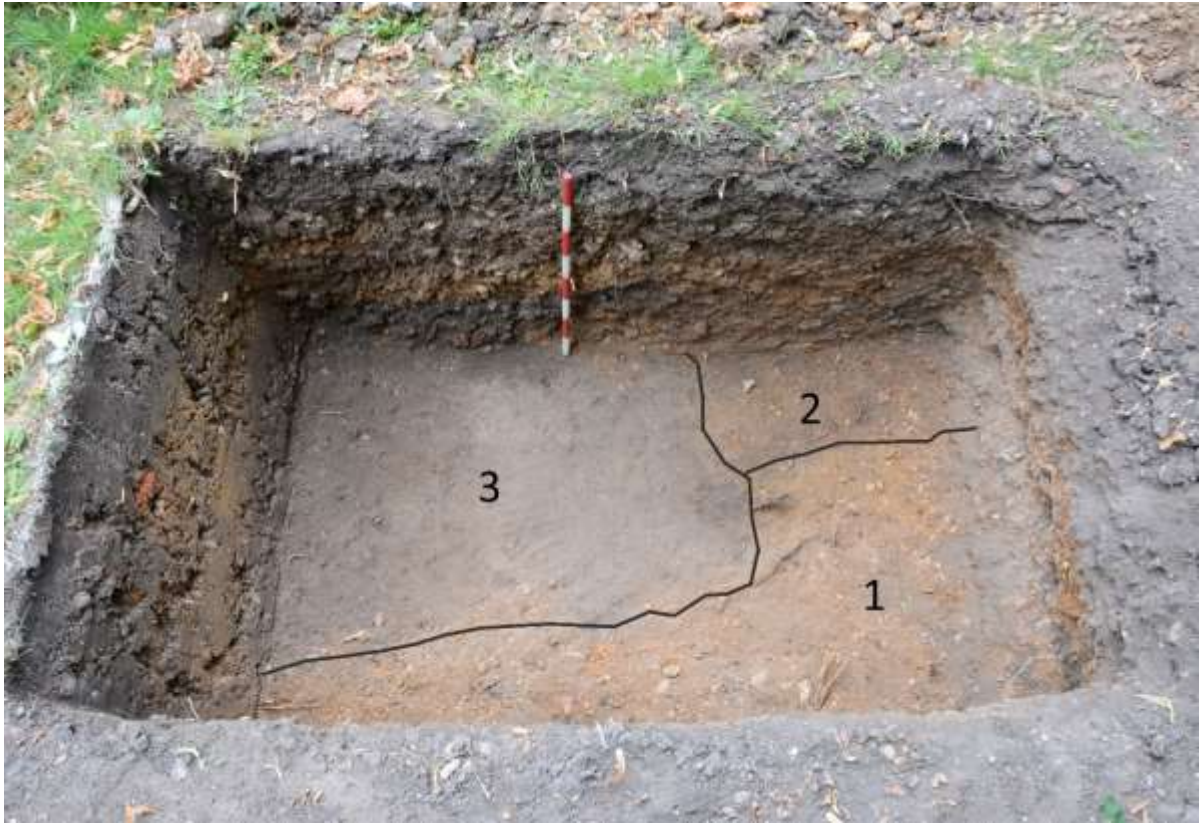


Fig.44: Interpretation of deposits shown in Fig.43

Key:

- 1 – Natural ground: clean orange to light brown very sandy gravel. Also comes up a maximum of 300mm further in section.
- 2 – Possible backfill; rather dirty and slightly silty sandy gravel.
- 3 – Ditto, firm, mid-brownish grey silty sand.

6.5.3 Test pit 2



Fig.45: Southwest-facing section of Test pit 2 (1m scale)



Fig.46: Overhead view of the pit from the southwest



Fig.47: Interpretation of deposits shown in Fig.46

Key:

- 1 – Natural ground: clean, fairly firm light orange-brown sandy gravel.
- 2 – Backfill of darker orange coarse sand/gravel. Associated cut is clearly visible in adjacent SW-facing section to within *c* 300mm of present ground level, about 0.5m wide at top.
- 3 – Backfill: fairly dark brown slightly silty sandy gravel. Comes up some 350 to 380mm further in section.

6.5.4 Test pit 3



Fig.48: *Southwest-facing section of Test pit 3 (0.8m scale)*



Fig.49: *Overhead view of the pit from the southwest*



Fig.50: Interpretation of deposits shown in Fig.49

Key:

1 – Natural ground: clean light orange-brown sandy gravel.

2 – Backfill: mixed & darker silty sand/gravel with occasional fragments of brick.

6.5.5 Test pit 4



Fig.51: Southwest-facing section of Test pit 4 (0.8m scale)



Fig.52: Overhead view of the pit from the southwest

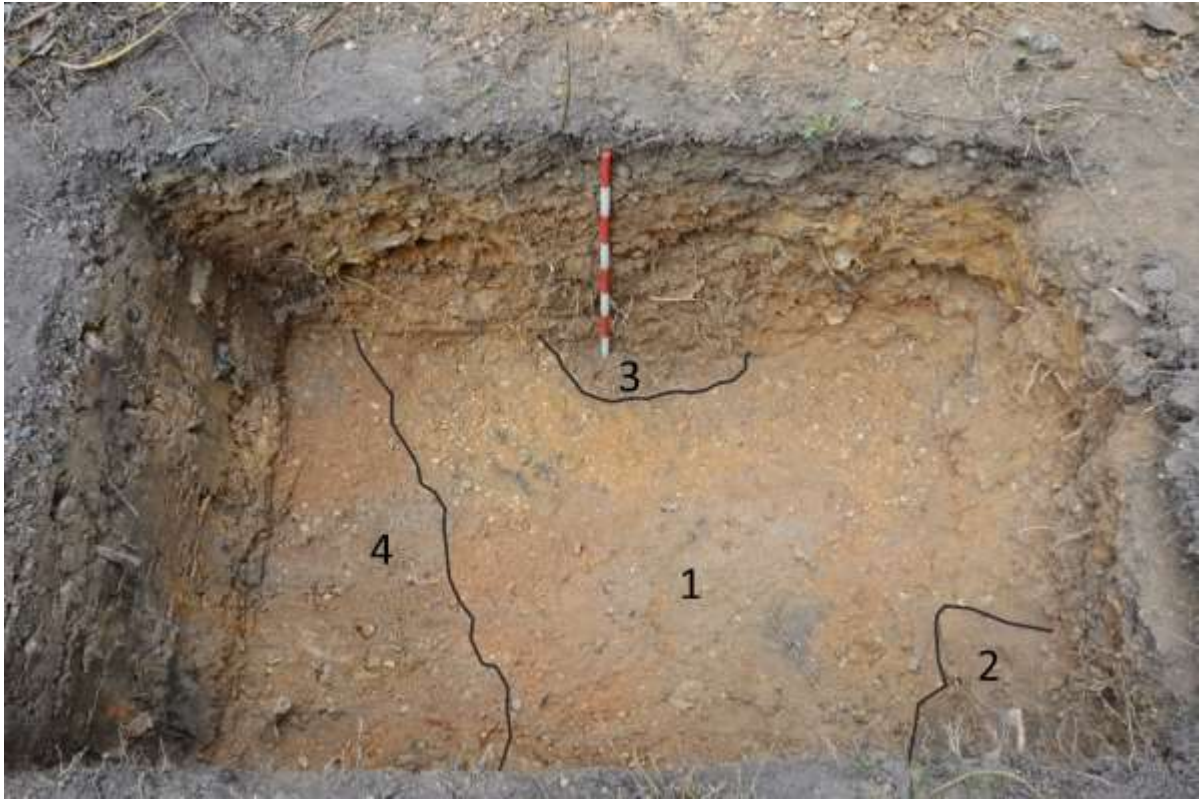


Fig.53: Interpretation of deposits shown in Fig.52

Key:

- 1 – Natural ground: fairly loose light yellow-brown sandy & medium/fine gravel, also comes up some 350-400mm further in section.
- 2 – Possible backfill; dirty and slightly silty gravel.
- 3 – Backfill: darker brown silty sand + fine gravel. Associated cut is visible in adjacent SW-facing section, up to c 600mm wide and rising to within 250mm of present ground level.
- 4 – Backfill: fairly dark orange silty sand/gravel with greyish clayey silt inclusions.

6.5.6 Test pit 5



Fig.54: Southwest-facing section of Test pit 5 (0.8m scale)



Fig.55: Overhead view of the pit from the southwest



Fig.56: Interpretation of deposits shown in Fig.55

Key:

- 1 – Presumed natural deposit: Interleaved clean light brown-orange sandy gravel and firm fairly light grey clayey silt, the latter dropping under the gravel to the northeast.
- 2 – Backfill: mixed darker grey silty sand & pebbles, also visible for at least 200mm in adjacent section.

6.5.7 Test pit 6



Fig.57: Southwest-facing section of Test pit 6 (0.8m scale)



Fig.58: Overhead view of the pit from the southwest

Presumed natural deposit at base of pit: brown-orange slightly silty sandy gravel over firm fairly light grey clayey silt; further gravel lensing visible below this.

6.5.8 Test pit 7



Fig.59: Southwest-facing section of Test pit 7 (0.8m scale)



Fig.60: Overhead view of the pit from the southwest

Presumed natural deposit: up to c 250mm of fairly fine orange-brown sandy gravel in section, interleaved with & over firm buff to light grey sandy silt as visible in plan.

6.5.9 Trial pit 8



Fig.61: *Southwest-facing section of Test pit 8 (1m scale)*



Fig.62: *Overhead view of the pit from the southwest*

Presumed natural deposit: 200-300mm of coarse orange-brown sandy gravel in section, overlying firm light buff to grey silty sandy silt (with patches of gravel) as visible in plan.

6.5.10 Test pit 9



Fig.63: Southwest-facing section of Test pit 9 (1m scale)



Fig.64: Overhead view of the pit from the southwest



Fig.65: Interpretation of deposits shown in Fig.64

Key:

- 1 – Natural ground: fairly loose clean light orange-brown very sandy gravel, in section coming up *c* 300mm and at base of pit overlying partly visible firm light buff-grey silty sand.
- 2 – Backfill: darker brown slightly silty sand with gravel; rises some 450mm in adjacent SW-facing section and includes one fragment of brick.

6.5.11 Test pit 10



Fig.66: Southwest-facing section of Test pit 10 (0.8m scale)



Fig.67: Overhead view of the pit from the southwest



Fig.68: Interpretation of deposits shown in Fig.67

Key:

- 1 – Natural ground: interleaved firm orange sandy medium-fine gravel and light grey clayey silt.
- 2 – Backfill; mixed darker brown-grey silty sand & gravel.
- 3 – Similar to (2) but also including scattered fragments of brick, and coming up at least 200mm in section.

7. Assessment of the results of the evaluation

The archaeological evaluation has provided an opportunity to address the site-specific questions that were defined within the preliminary *Written Scheme* (4.3 above). The responses to these are outlined below:

- *Do any remains survive of the designed landscape of Aldersbrook Manor; especially the 'Great Canal', kitchen gardens, or manor house itself?*

Some features and remains relating to the designed landscape of Aldersbrook Manor, mainly in Trench 1 and in particular the base of the terrace retaining wall (7) and adjacent broad gravel path (3). Associated deposits also include the made ground (4) and soil horizon (5), respectively to the north and south of the wall.

There was little independent dating evidence for these remains, but it seems clear that they are related and that they all form parts of the 18th century terraced garden. They were few remains elsewhere in the evaluated area, although the brick drain (11) in Trench 2 is also very likely to date to this period.

- *At what level to the uppermost 'public graves' survive along the south of the site and are they likely to be affected by ground stripping?*

Although seven of the ten test pits revealed probable grave cuts and backfills there was no evidence for human remains at this level. The pits were generally dug to a depth about 300mm below the currently-proposed formation levels, so there seems little likelihood that the groundworks will directly impact upon burials.

- *What form does the natural geology of the area take and does this conform to the known BGS information?*

The natural ground surface varied somewhat over the evaluated area. On the southern side of the site the test pits revealed clean light brown or orange sandy gravel, to the east also interleaved with light grey clayey silt to silty sand. The larger trial trenches to the northeast exposed a natural subsoil of fairly light grey/brown silt with varying proportions of pebbles/gravel. This latter deposit was however not excavated to any depth.

These findings broadly conform to the record of Hackney Gravel, and show that this part of the cemetery at least overlies these rather than being directly onto the much older London Clay.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1** The evaluation did not reveal any extensive or very significant archaeological remains. The findings that were made were concentrated in one area, within Trench 1 and in the extreme northeast corner of the application site. The most significant feature was the brick terrace wall (7), which survived to a level about 1.0m below modern ground level (*c* 6.80m OD). The associated gravel path to the south (3) was somewhat deeper, at a maximum of *c* 6.50m OD or about 1.3m below the present surface.

There was no evidence for the continuation of the east-west wall (or the gravel path) in either of the adjacent trial trenches. The only feature of any note was the presumably contemporary drain (11) in Trench 2, which was recorded some 1.5m below the present land surface (*c* 6.29m OD).

- 8.2** The test pits on the southern perimeter of the site did not reveal any human remains, and the findings indicate that although these are likely to be present in the area they will be well below the proposed formation levels.
- 8.3** In view of these results it is suggested that no further on-site archaeological mitigation is required, and that the condition can be deemed satisfied. Significant remains, notably the section of wall (7), were confined to the northeastern corner of the site and were only encountered at depths of 1.0m to 1.5m below present ground level. Proposed construction drawings for this area indicate that groundworks will be approximately 0.5m to 0.7m in depth, and so will be entirely confined to the overlying deposit of recent made ground.

9. References

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Appendix I The pottery (*Paul Blinkhorn*)

The pottery assemblage comprised four sherds with a total weight of 82g. It comprised a mixture of medieval and post-medieval wares, and was recorded using the conventions of the Museum of London Type-Series (*eg.* Vince 1985), as follows:

- BORDY:** **Yellow-glazed Border Ware**, 1550-1700. 1 sherd, 1g.
CBW: **Coarse Border Ware**, 1270 – 1500. 1 sherd, 19g.
FREC: **Frechen Stoneware**, 1550 – 1700. 1 sherd, 7g.
PMBL: **Post-medieval Black-glazed Redware**, 1600 – 1900. 1 sherd, 55g

All the types are common finds in the London region. The sherd of PMBL is from context (9) [buried soil horizon, Trench 2], and is the base of a jar, probably of 17th – 18th century date. The other three sherds are all from context (5) [lower soil horizon, Trench 1], and are bodysherds other than the residual fragment of CBW, which is a jar rim, and very abraded. The sherd of FREC is from the body of a bottle, and has a fragment of the edge of an impressed prunt. Such an assemblage is typical of the mid 16th – 18th century.

Appendix II Clay tobacco pipe

Five pieces of clay pipe were recovered, from two contexts within Trench 1. In detail the finds were as follows:

Context (4) [infill behind retaining wall]

- Two pieces of stem, respectively 24mm & 75mm in length.

Context (5) [probable 18th C garden soil horizon]:

- Two pieces of stem, 23mm & 33mm in length.
- One bowl. Height 36mm, rim diam. 16mm. Probably no. 12 in Atkinson & Oswald's typology of London pipes, *c* 1640-70. The only notable feature was that the front of the pipe bowl was pierced with a small hole, in line with the stem and evidently done by mistake during manufacture.

Appendix III Ceramic building material (*Sue Pringle*)

Brick samples were taken from the retaining wall (7) in Trench 1 – both the main body of the wall and the offset base or step to the rear – and from the east-west drain (11) in Trench 2.

The bricks have been examined and recorded, and a full Excel sheet is reproduced overleaf (Table 1). Although not closely dateable the bricks are most likely to be 17th to 18th century, with the ones from the main body of the wall (7) probably 18th century. None of the bricks are particularly well made, but are suitable for use in gardens, drain, *etc.*, where often hidden and where quality is not so critical will be compiled in due course. There was also evidence of reuse on one of the wall bricks.



Fig.69: *Sample bricks from the main body of the east-west retaining wall (7). 100mm scale*



Fig.70: *Sample brick from the east-west drain (11)*

Context number	Type	Context cbm date	Fabric	Weight	L	B	T	Condition	Comments	Fabric notes	e date for type	l date for type
7	Wall/main body	1600-1800	3223?	1966	220	101	63	Rd, M	Unfrogged; sharp arrises, creased stretchers. Diagonal pressure marks on 1 stretcher. Lime mortar. One end reduced.	Orange fabric, muddy and poorly fired.	1600	1800
7	Wall/main body	1600-1800	3223?	2125	220	107	63	Rd, M, Ru?	Conjoin. Unfrogged. Sharp arrises; fairly flat sides. Diagonal pressure marks on 1 stretcher. Top surface, with thin mortar, looks abraded, probably re-used.		1600	1800
7	Wall/main body	1600-1800	3223?	1784	220	100	65	M	Unfrogged; flat sides. Indented margin.	Similar orange fabric but with coarse calcareous inclusions - lime or lime mortar?	1600	1700-50
7	Wall - step to rear	1450-1700	3033	2027	220	110	58	A, M	Conjoin. Unfrogged; creased sides; rounded arrises.		1450	1700
7	Wall - step to rear	1450-1700	3033	2528	235	119	56		Conjoin. Unfrogged. Creased faces; rounded arrises. Animal prints in top bedface, c. 23mm across - small cat?	Flint flecks in fabric	1450	1700
11	Drain	1450-1750	3046	2276	227+	121	54-60	A, M	3 conjoin. Unfrogged. Indented margin; creased stretchers.	Flint flecks in fabric	1450	1700-50
11	Drain	1450-1750	3046	2414	245	120	53	M	Conjoin. Unfrogged. Creased base and stretchers.	Flint flecks in fabric	1450	1700-50
11	Drain	1450-1750	3033	1748	225	113	50-56	M	Unfrogged. Creased base and sides. Indented margin.	Slightly sandy fabric with flint flecks, near 3046	1450	1700-50

Table 1: *Detail of brick samples*

Appendix IV OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: [compassa1-222671](#)

Project details

Project name	The Shoot, CoL Cemetery, Manor Park
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation took place within the grounds of the 18th century Aldersbrook Manor, just to the south of the main house and in an area that once contained water features and a terraced garden. On its southern edge the site also an area of later 19th century 'public graves' associated with the present cemetery. Although the evaluation did not reveal any very significant archaeological remains some features and remains relating to the designed landscape of the Manor were found in the northeast corner of the site. Most notable was the lower section of a substantial brick-built terrace wall. Parallel with and about 4.6m to the south of this was a broad gravel path, whilst other associated deposits included made ground and soil horizons to the north and south of the retaining wall. There was little independent dating evidence for these remains, but it seems clear that they are related and that they all form parts of the 18th century terraced garden. They were few remains elsewhere in the evaluated area, although a brick drain in the adjacent evaluation trench is also very likely to date to this period. Ten test pits were also excavated on the southern edge of the site, in the area of recorded 19th century burials. Most of these exposed probable grave cuts and fills, but there was no evidence for human remains at this level.
Project dates	Start: 27-07-2015 End: 11-08-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SHT15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	DRAIN Post Medieval
Monument type	PATH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE (SMOKING) Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches", "Test Pits"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)

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

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM EAST HAM The Shoot, CoL Cemetery, Aldersbrook Road, Manor Park
Postcode	E12 5DQ
Study area	120 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 4233 8648 51.558721575975 0.053425878363 51 33 31 N 000 03 12 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.15m Max: 11m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage GLAAS
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor/funding body	City of London Corporation

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Physical Archive ID	SHT15
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive

Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	'The Shoot', CoL Cemetery, Aldersbrook Road, Manor Park E12 5DQ, LB of Newham. An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Potter, G
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, London SE1 1RQ
Description	In-house client report (73 pages incl. illustrations). Covers background to the project, details of methodology and results of the investigation, and conclusions reached.