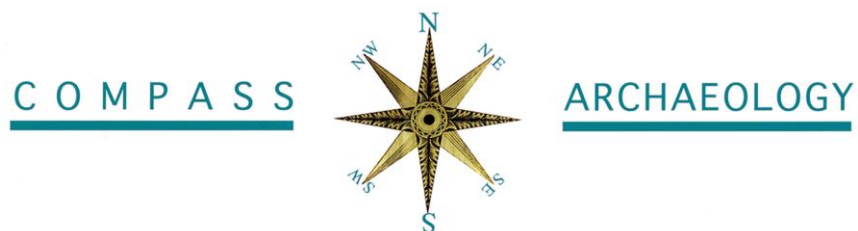


DYLON 2: LAND FORMERLY KNOWN AS FOOTZIE OLD SPORTS GROUNDS

**WORSLEY BRIDGE ROAD, LOWER SYDENHAM,
LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY, SE26 5BQ**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



MAY 2017

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**SITE CODE: WOY17
APPROX. SITE CENTRE: TQ 36874 71148**

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Abstract

Between the 15th and the 18th May 2017, Compass Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation on the site of Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Ground, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham, SE26 5BQ as part of a planning application process for the development of a residential building, car park and public park (planning ref: 17/00170/FULL1). The evaluation was commissioned by Historic England via Isambard Archaeology.

The programme of archaeological works entailed the monitoring and recording of the excavation of four test trenches measuring between 6.08-6.90m long by 4.25-4.55m wide. A sondage was dug in the centre of each trench to a depth of 2.35-2.55m. These measured between 2.65-4.10m long by 1.55-1.65m wide. A sondage was used as the depth necessary to view the lower deposits required stepped sides in order to conform to health and safety standards. Four geoarchaeological boreholes were taken by QUEST over the same time period, the results of which were of limited paleoenvironmental potential.

The stratigraphy was broadly similar in all four trenches, with some slight variation. Generally comprising 0.18-0.20m thick of mid brown topsoil (100), (200), (300), (400) overlying a layer of made ground, 0.65-1.03m thick, with frequent inclusions of ceramic building material (CBM), glass and occasional fragments of metal (101), (201), (301), (401). The layer of made ground was, in trenches 2 and 4, laid over a layer of orange-blue alluvial clay 0.98-1.22m thick (202) and (402). In trench 3 this layer of clay was preceded by a buried surface of black asphalt and red sand (302), and in trench 1 by a layer of blue-black peaty clay (102). Beneath the alluvial clay were natural grey-orange gravels (203), (303) and (403), appearing at a level of around 2.30m below the surface; the bottom of excavation. These gravels did not appear in trench 1, perhaps in part due to the level of excavation in that trench. In trench 4, the gravels appeared much deeper on the western end- around 2.72m from the surface. There was also a small lens of dark grey peaty clay (404) in the gravel at the west end of trench 4. The lowest level recorded was 21.73m OD

The sequence has been attributed to frequent flooding from the Pool River. The floods will have deposited the alluvial clays on top of the natural gravel. Deposits of peaty clay formed in natural hollows in the floodplain. Since the land was not developed until the late 19th century, this process occurred over a long period of time. In the late 19th century, demolition rubble and waste was spread over the area in order to further level it and raise it above flood levels. It was then developed into Milton Sports Ground. The land was used in this way until the late 20th century when it became partially abandoned. The layer of asphalt (302) was perhaps an attempt at developing the land before it was decided to level it with demolition materials and create the sports ground.

No finds or features of archaeological interest were found, most likely due to the fact that the land remained open and undeveloped for most of its history.

No further archaeological works are proposed for this site, therefore no further mitigation is required. If this changes, an update/new proposal made in consultation with the relevant parties shall be produced.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a summary of the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted on the land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Ground, Worsley Road, Lower Sydenham, Bromley, SE26 5BQ, site code WOY17, by Compass Archaeology between 15th to the 18th May (fig. 1).

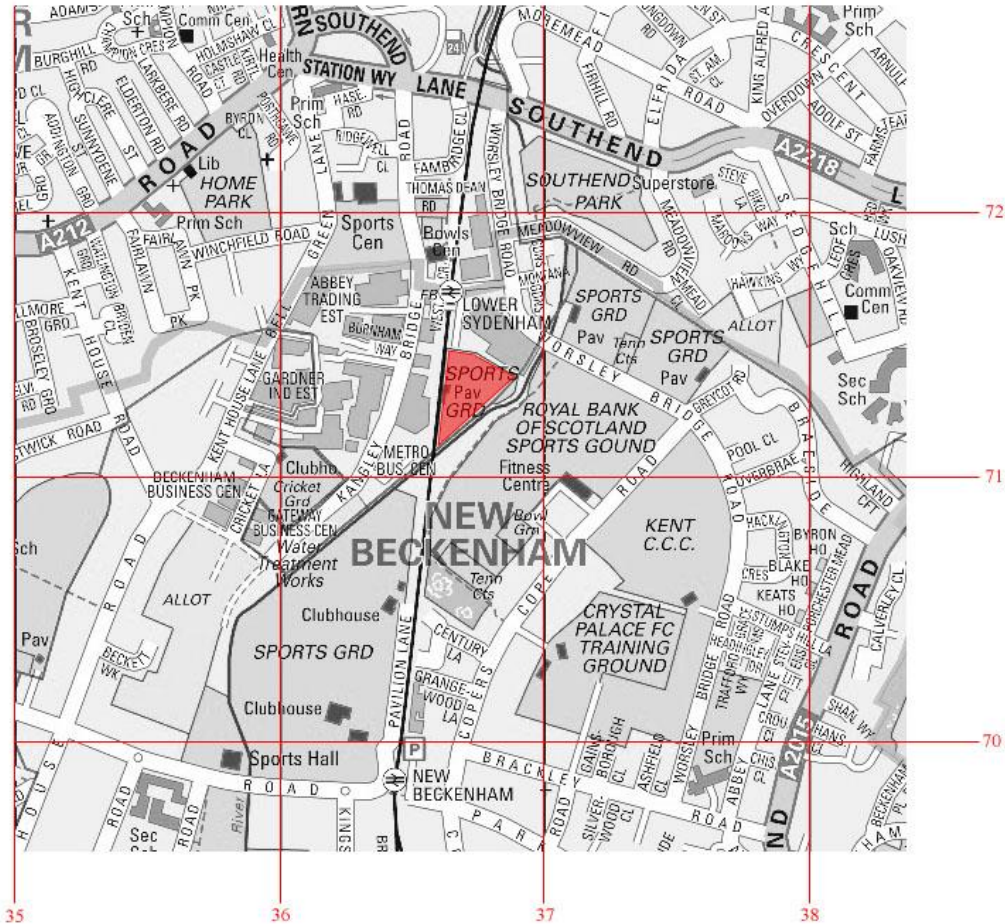


Figure 1: Site location marked in red. Reproduced from OS data with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of HMSO.

1.2 The site is due to be redeveloped from open ground into a residential high-rise building with ancillary car park and the area in the eastern part of the site is to be landscaped to form an accessible open space (fig. 2). Whilst the evaluation was being carried out however, the planning application was refused (panning reference 17/00170/FULL1). This is due to the fact that the proposed redevelopment of designated Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) for residential purposes is inappropriate considering the level of damage to the MOL and the lack of affordable housing within the development itself (Decision Notice, Bromley Town Planning, 16th May 2017).

1.3 This evaluation was commissioned by Historic England (via Isambard Archaeology) as part of the Local Authority planning process. A previous desk-based assessment carried out by Isambard Archaeology (June 2015) concluded that although some undesignated heritage assets were identified within the area of the site, their significance was low.

- 1.4 The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trial trenches as well as four geoarchaeological boreholes (QUEST, May 2017) within the south-eastern part of the site (fig. 6).



Figure 2: Proposed plan of site layout. Location of trenches in red. Evaluation site area in blue. Reproduced from Site Plan by Ian Ritchie Architects, drawing number P03A/101 (13/01/2017).

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2.1 Compass Archaeology would like to thank Historic England for commissioning this archaeological evaluation, and Isambard Archaeology for commissioning Compass to undertake the work. Compass would also like to thank Tara Plant Hire Ltd. for the provision of necessary machinery, and QUEST for carrying out a paleoenvironmental survey.

3 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The site is roughly triangular in shape, bounded by the Pool River to the south-east and railway to the west. It covers an area of around 18,650 sq. meters, largely laid to grass with some buildings and areas of hard surfacing along the western boundary.

- 3.2** The site lies on a drift geology of clay, silt, sand and gravel, with a layer of alluvium along the course of the Pool River in the eastern part of the site (sheet 270, British Geological Survey).

Preliminary ground investigation undertaken by Geosphere Environmental Ltd. (August 2014) recorded either topsoil, asphalt or made ground at the surface to a depth of 0.6m. Underneath this were varying depths of made ground or natural soils. In the eastern part of the site, these natural soils were recorded as alluvium from a depth of 1.0-1.65m. Shallow groundwater was encountered from 1.0m to 1.95m deep. Peaty deposits were found in one borehole towards the north of the site, between 1.65m and 2.0m deep.

- 3.3** The land rises gently to the northwest, from about 23.7m to 24.0mOD. The trial trenches were located on the southern part of the site, within the historic floodplain of the Pool River. This is a fairly level area, just over 24.0mOD.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1** Information retrieved from the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) found that there were seven designated and undesignated Heritage Assets within 750m of the site. The results of the GLHER survey have been discussed in more detail in the desk-based assessment (Isambard Archaeology, June 2015) and will only be covered briefly here.

There is no evidence of prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site.

4.2 Roman

The 2nd century Roman Road that ran from London to Lewes on the south coast, runs north-south to the east of the site. A section of this road was found 14 inches below the surface, 470m to the northeast of the site (MLO2015). Further south, the road forms the boundary between Bromley and Croydon (MLO19469). No finds were recovered from these excavations.

There is no evidence of Saxon or Medieval activity within the vicinity of the site.

4.3 Post-Medieval

There are several reports of post-medieval activity around the site, consisted of finds and archaeological features. The majority come from evaluations by SELAU (1991; 1995) at the Sydenham Children's Hospital, during which they found several features including a trackway (MLO59870), gullies with 18th century finds (MLO59873), a late 18th century drain (MLO59875), a 19th century pit (MLO59881) and an 18th century brick building (MLO59868). Some large fragments of pottery including sugar moulds, flower pots and chimneys were also found at the Children's Hospital (MLO59877). Seven buildings (including the one listed above) dating to the post-medieval period are listed in the GLHER in various locations around the site (MLO24359; MLO25560; MLO4630; MLO63466; MLO106568; MLO103558), all of which have subsequently been demolished.

4.4

The site itself has been undeveloped throughout its history. Seen as woodland on John Roque's map (1746; fig. 3), the site was cleared and used as common land after the Enclosure Act of 1810 (fig. 4). The site remained open land until the late 19th century when it was used as an athletics/sports ground (fig. 5). During this time a pavilion and tennis courts were positioned on the west side, at the south end. There is no visible evidence of the tennis courts left today. It is unclear when the land became as it is today; used as an unofficial car park and fly-tipping locale.



Figure 3: John Roque's map, 1746. Approximate site location circled in red. Adapted from Desk-Top Archaeological Assessment: Dylon 2, Isambard Archaeology (2015).

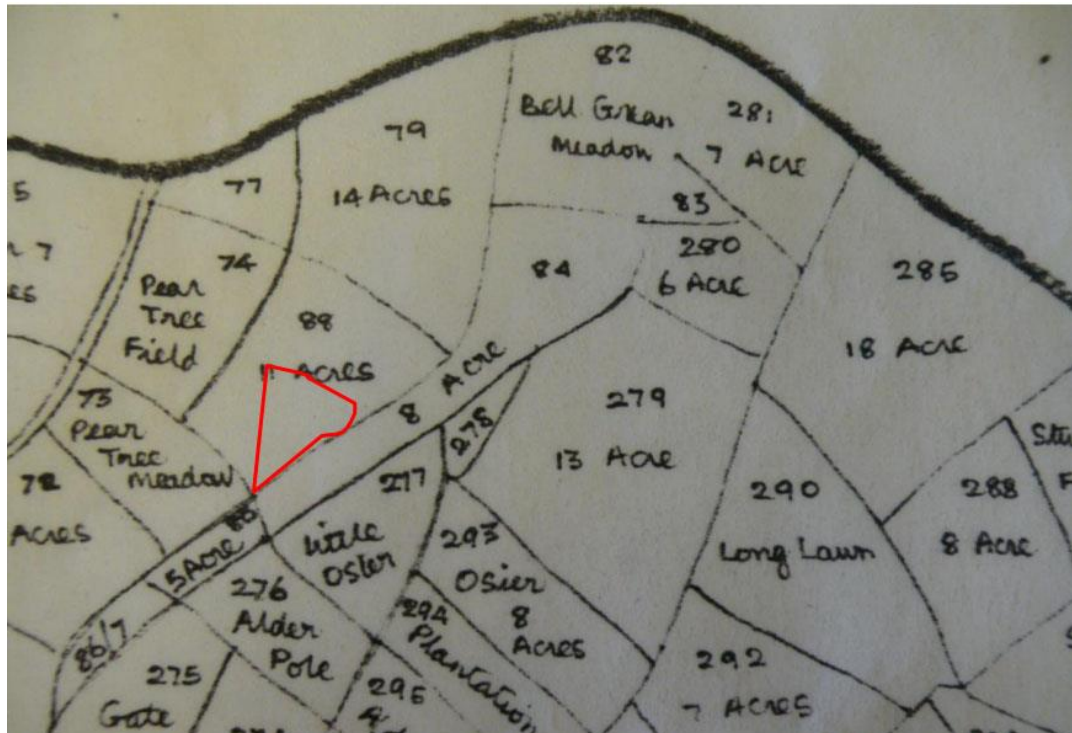


Figure 4: Site location in red on tithe map 1838. Adapted from Desk-Top Archaeological Assessment: Dylon 2, Isambard Archaeology (2015).



Figure 5: 1938- Site location in red. Reproduced from OS data with permission from the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of HMSO.

5 PLANNING AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 The evaluation entailed the excavation of four trial trenches within the proposed new build footprint to investigate the upper and lower peat horizons present in the alluvial deposits associated with the floodplain of the Pool River. The trenches were excavated using a machine with a toothless bucket, and were backfilled after recording was completed. Four ge archaeological boreholes were dug by QUEST at the same time as the archaeologists were on site (Appendix III).

5.2 The archaeological evaluation at this site presented the opportunity to address the following research questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, and what period or periods does this cover? Also do the peaty/clayey peat horizons contain significant environmental evidence that can be further analysed?
- Is there any evidence for subsequent activity prior to the later post-medieval period, and in what form?
- Does the top of the buried alluvium represent a buried land surface, and what was the likely nature of land use here- such as low-lying water meadow bordering the Pool River?
- What additional evidence is there for the nature of the overlying deposits- consistently recorded by the ground investigation as made

ground? Also, what is the probable date of this- for example, may it relate to the development of the present site as Milton Athletic Ground and tennis courts in the later 19th century?

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Standards

6.1.1 The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (*Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work, 2015*). Works also conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, 2014*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute.

6.1.2 Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team held valid CSCS (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme) cards and wore hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, steel-toe-capped boots etc. as required.

6.1.3 Historic England and Isambard Archaeology were kept informed of the progress of the fieldwork.

6.2 Fieldwork

6.2.1 The evaluation programme comprised the monitoring of four test trenches dug in the south of the site in varying orientations (fig. 6). The trenches measured between 6.08-6.90m long by 4.25-4.55m wide. A sondage was dug in the centre of each trench to a depth of 2.35-2.55m. These measured between 2.65-4.10m long by 1.55-1.65m wide. A sondage was used as the depth necessary to view the lower deposits required stepped sides in order to conform to health and safety standards. As well as these, four geoarchaeological boreholes were undertaken by QUEST (University of Reading; fig. 6; Appendix III).

6.2.2 Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan and section at scales of 1:50 and 1:10 respectively. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. Levels were taken at the surface, step and bottom (of the sondage) on each trench, using a temporary bench mark (TBM) transferred from the nearest Ordnance Survey Datum Benchmark, on the top of a manhole cover (fig. 6), valued at 24.41m OD. The fieldwork record was supplemented by digital photographs in .jpeg and RAW formats.

6.2.3 The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used are directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

6.3 Post-excavation

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

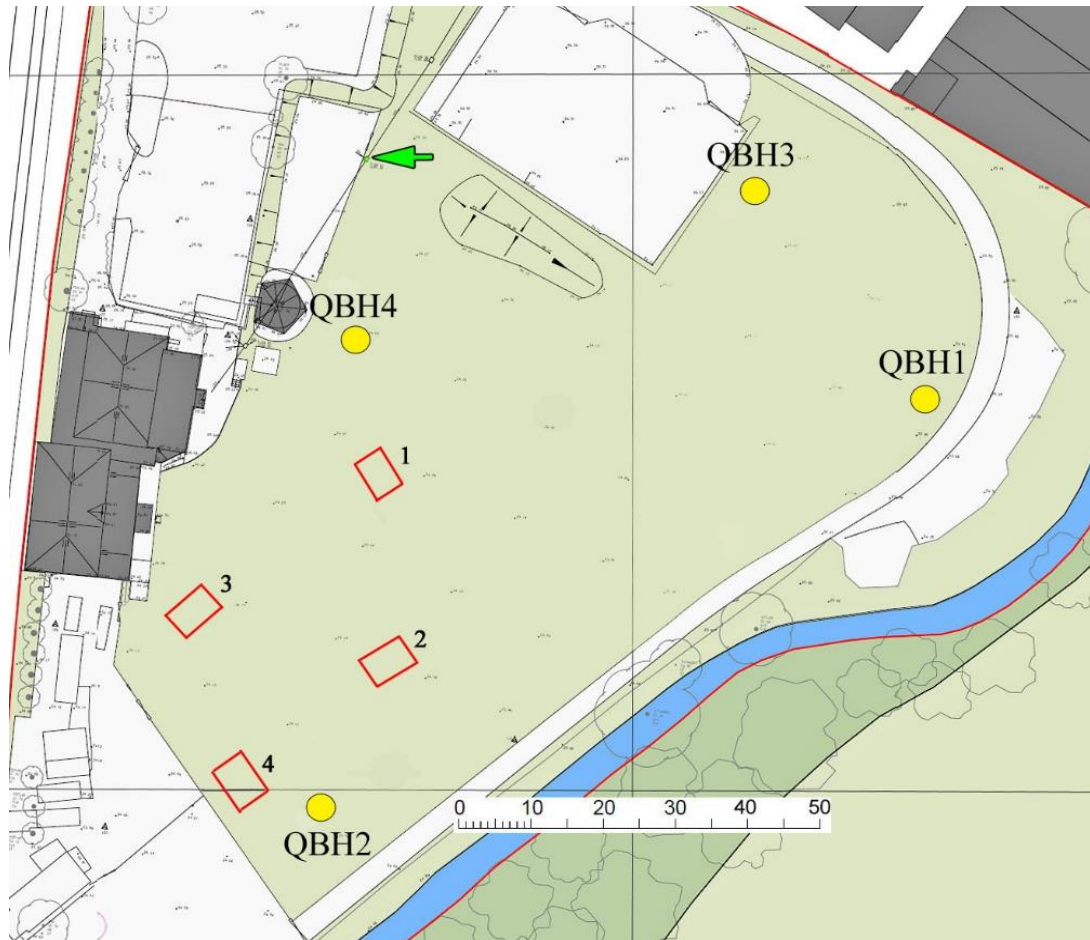


Figure 6: Location of four numbered evaluation trenches (red), geoarchaeological boreholes (yellow) and the manhole cover benchmark (green arrow). Adapted from Site Survey Plan by Ian Ritchie Architects, drawing no. P03A/102 (13/01/2017).

6.3.1 Finds and samples

Although late 19th century pottery and glass were observed within the made ground deposit across all four trenches, any fragments were not retained due to a lack of significance and the fact that the rubble will have been brought in from elsewhere to be deposited on site and therefore has little bearing on the history of the site.

6.4 Report procedure

6.4.1 This report contains a description of the fieldwork plus an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations have been included as appropriate, including a site plan located to the OS grid, illustrative sections of trench stratigraphy and trench plans. A short summary of the project has been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form (Appendix IV).

6.4.2 Copies of this report will be submitted to the Client and Historic England.

6.5 The site archive

On the assumption that no further work is required, an ordered, indexed and internally consistent archive of the evaluation will be compiled in line with Museum of London Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives, and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive under site code WOY17. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained and the landowner will be encouraged to donate any archaeological finds to the museum.

7 RESULTS

7.1 What follows is a written description of the observations made during the evaluation. Deposits are shown in round brackets, like so (x), and cuts and structures in square brackets like so [x]. All trenches were excavated by machine and will be discussed in turn. Fig. 6 should be referred to for the trench locations and figs. 15-22 for plans and sample section drawings of the trenches (appendix II). All trenches contain contexts prefixed with the number of the corresponding trench, for example contexts (100) - (103) are in trench 1, contexts (200) - (203) are in trench 2 etc. A context list of the site has been included in appendix I.

7.2 Trench 1

7.2.1 Trench 1 was the northern-most trench (figs. 15 & 19). The trench was rectangular, oriented NW-SE. It measured 6.08m long by 4.45m wide. The majority of the trench was dug to a depth of 1.33m (23.10mOD). The sondage measured 3.15m long by 1.60m wide and measured 2.35m (22.09mOD) deep, from the surface (fig. 7).

7.2.2 The stratigraphy of trench 1 was simple, comprising a mid-brown silty topsoil (100), 0.18m thick with no inclusions. This overlay a layer of made ground of varying compaction (101). It was mid-grey at the top, changing to a thin layer of white chalk before changing to an orange-brown clay at the bottom of the layer. It contained frequent inclusions of ceramic building material (CBM), glass and concrete; post-medieval/modern demolition rubble. The made ground was 0.98m thick in this trench. Underlying the made ground was a layer of dark blue-black alluvial peaty clay (102) with occasional inclusions of CBM and other rubble towards the top. The clay became finer grained towards the bottom of the layer with no inclusions. This layer was 1.26m thick, with a blue-orange clay underneath it (103). This was a sterile natural seen towards the bottom of the sondage (fig. 8). The groundwater was fairly low here, entering the trench gradually at the bottom of the sondage

7.2.3 No finds or features of archaeological interest were recovered from this trench.



Figure 7: Trench 1, section and sondage. Some groundwater in bottom of sondage. View from NW. Scale 1m.



Figure 8: Trench 1, section. View from SW. Scale 1m.

7.3 Trench 2

7.3.1 Trench 2 was the eastern-most trench (figs. 16 & 20). It was rectangular, oriented NE-SW. It measured 6.70m long by 4.25m wide. The majority of the trench was dug to a depth of 1.32m (23.08mOD). The sondage measured 2.65m long by 1.65m wide and measured 2.55m deep from the surface (21.81mOD).

7.3.2 The stratigraphy here was similar to that seen in trench 1 (fig. 9). Context (200) comprised a mid-brown silty topsoil, 0.14m thick overlying a mid-orange-brown subsoil with occasional CBM inclusions that was 0.15m thick. This again overlay a layer of dark brown silty clay made ground (201), with frequent inclusions of CBM, glass, cinder rubble and various corroded metal objects including a bucket. This layer was 1.03m thick, and underlying it was a mid-orange-blue layer of clay (202). It contained no inclusions and was 0.98m thick. The natural in this trench comprised grey-orange gravels (203). The ground water in this area was very high, beginning to flood the trench at a level of about 1.30m deep (fig. 10). The bottom of the sondage rapidly filled with water, affecting visibility of the trench base.

7.3.3 There were no finds or features of archaeological interest recovered from this trench.



Figure 9: Trench 2 section. View from SE. Scale 1m.



Figure 10: Trench 2 groundwater at 1.30m deep. View from S. Scale 2m.

7.4 Trench 3

7.4.1 Trench 3 was the western-most trench (figs. 17 & 21). It was rectangular, oriented NE-SW. It measured 6.73m long by 4.50m wide. The majority of the trench was dug to a depth of 1.31m (23.08mOD). The sondage measured 4.10m long by 1.55m wide and measured 2.55m deep from the surface (21.87mOD).

7.4.2 The stratigraphy in this trench was somewhat similar to both trench 1 and 2 (fig. 11). It comprised a mid-brown topsoil (300), 0.20m thick, overlying a layer of mid-brown silty-clay-sand made ground. This layer was 0.65m thick and contained frequent inclusions of CBM, glass, metal and other building rubble. Underlying this was context (302), comprising a layer of black asphalt 0.08m thick, sandwiched between 2 layers of coarse red sand c. 0.03m thick. A layer of brown-yellow clay (303) underlay this, 0.07m thick, followed by a layer of yellow-blue clay (304) 1.22m thick. The natural under this consisted of grey-orange gravels (305). The groundwater in this trench was lower, draining into the bottom of the sondage (fig. 12).

7.4.3 There were no finds or features of archaeological interest recovered from this trench.



Figure 11: Trench 3 section, showing (300), (301), (302) and (303). View from SW. Scale 1m.



Figure 12: Trench 3 section and sondage. Groundwater at bottom of sondage, rain pooling in rest of trench. View from SW. Scale 1.2m

7.5 Trench 4

7.5.1 Trench 4 was the most southerly trench (figs. 18 & 22). It was rectangular and oriented NW-SE. It measured 6.90m long by 4.55m wide. The majority of the trench was dug to a depth of 1.24m (23.11mOD). The sondage measured 3.50m long by 1.55m wide and 2.43m (21.73mOD) deep from the surface, at the SE end. The NW end of the sondage was dug deeper to find the extent of the natural gravels and of a layer of peaty clay that appeared. This end was dug to 3.30m deep (fig. 13). Unfortunately a level could not be taken as the groundwater made the walls of the sondage structurally unsound at this depth and it had to be backfilled immediately.

7.5.2 The stratigraphy of this trench was similar to the other three (fig. 14). Context (400), comprising a 0.09m thick layer of mid-brown topsoil above a 0.17m thick layer of light brown subsoil with occasional inclusions of CBM, overlay a layer of mid-brown silty-sandy-clay made ground (401), 0.86m thick. This layer contained frequent inclusions of CBM (red and yellow stock brick) and glass. There was a large tile dump within this layer on the NE section. It was overlying a small amount of suspected asbestos however, so was left undisturbed. The dimensions of the dump therefore are unknown. The made ground was overlying a mid-blue-orange clay (402) layer, 1.17m thick at the S end, 1.50m thick at the W end. Grey-orange gravels (403) appeared beneath this, encircling a dark grey peaty clay lens (404) at the W end. The groundwater in this trench appeared at about 2.45m deep.

7.5.3 There were no finds or features of archaeological interest found in this trench.



Figure 13: Trench 4 sondage. Deepest end in W backfilled immediately due to unsafe structure. View from NE. Scale 3m



Figure 14: Trench 4 section and partially backfilled sondage. View from NE. Scale 1m.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The general stratigraphy observed was comparable in all four trenches. The topsoils, (100), (200), (300) and (400) were very similar, though subsoil only appeared in trenches 2 and 4, towards the southern end of the area. The subsoil in (200) and (400) was also very similar; a mid-brown with occasional inclusions of CBM. A thick layer of made ground of a very homogenous composition appeared across all four trenches, (101), (201), (301) and (401). This is thought to have been deposited in the late 19th century when the land was developed into a sports ground. It was most likely used to level the ground surface, as well as raise it in an attempt to avoid flooding from the Pool River. The made ground was of a similar thickness across trenches 1, 2 and 4, but thinner in trench 3 where (302), the buried layer of asphalt appears beneath it. This was a surface of some kind, potentially an attempt to make use of the land before it was decided to level it with demolition rubble. It was probably laid down not long before the made ground was deposited.

The layer beneath the made ground was varying tones of grey-blue clay across all four trenches. In trench 1, (103) was a sterile mid-orange-blue clay that made up the natural in this area. In trench 2, (202) was a mid-orange-blue clay, that, as in trenches 3 and 4 overlay a layer of natural gravel (203), (305) and (403). The clay context in trench 3, (304) was yellow-blue, and in trench 4 it was orange-blue. This slightly variable clay deposit was probably alluvial, deposited during periods of flooding from the Pool River. The level at which this clay appeared in the trenches was similar, except in trench 1 where peaty clay (102) appeared at the same level and the alluvial clay was much deeper, only appearing just above the depth of the gravels in the rest of the trenches. This would indicate the landscape before the deposition of the made ground was fairly even, apart from a large dip towards the north of the site. It is

possible that this dip caused a layer of peaty clay (102) to be deposited in it by receding floodwaters. This peaty clay is not seen elsewhere in the evaluation trenches, aside from a small lens (404) in trench 4 within the gravel layer (403).

The grey-orange gravels that are seen at the bottom of trenches 2, 3 and 4 also appear at a similar level to one another. This level is just on or below the point at which trench 1 was excavated to, so despite them not appearing in this trench it is entirely possible that a further 0.10m of excavation would have revealed the gravel. It is also possible though, that since trench 1 appears to be in a natural indentation, the gravels would have been subsequently lower, if present at all. The ground water on the site tended to appear around the level of the natural gravels.

9 CONCLUSION

The following section provides a summary of the work undertaken with reference to the original research questions.

9.1 *Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, and what period or periods does this cover? Also, do the peaty/clayey peat horizons contain significant environmental evidence that can be further analysed?*

There is no archaeological or environmental evidence for prehistoric activity on this site. The environmental investigation also failed to find any peat deposits in any of the four boreholes, and the alluvium present was of limited paleoenvironmental potential.

9.2 *Is there any evidence for subsequent activity prior to the later post-medieval period, and in what form?*

There is no evidence for any activity on site before the late post-medieval period, either archaeologically or environmentally.

9.3 *Does the top of the buried alluvium represent a buried land surface, and what was the likely nature of land use here?*

The buried orange-blue alluvial clay was probably an exposed land surface as there are no other buried layers between it and the late post-medieval deposition of made ground across the majority of the site. Where there is another layer, i.e. the peaty clay (102) in trench 1, and light-brown clay (303) in trench 3, they are still alluvial deposits. The likely nature of land use may have been as part-time grazing land or some other community use, when the Pool River was not flooded.

9.4 *What additional evidence is there for the nature of the overlying deposit consistently recorded by the ground investigation as made ground? Also, what is the probably date of this- for example may it be related to the development of the present site as Milton Athletic Ground and tennis courts in the late 19th century?*

The made ground layer appeared consistently to be made up of demolition rubble and household refuse across all four trenches. It probably was deposited when the land

was being developed for use as Milton Athletic Ground, to level the site and to raise it to avoid flooding.

9.5 No further archaeological or paleoenvironmental work is recommended for this site.

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10.2 Cartographic Sources

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APPENDIX I: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Number	Trench	Description
(100)	1	Topsoil
(101)	1	Made ground
(102)	1	Dark blue-black peaty clay
(103)	1	Orange-blue clay
(200)	2	Topsoil
(201)	2	Made ground
(202)	2	Orange-blue clay
(203)	2	Orange gravel
(300)	3	Topsoil
(301)	3	Made ground
(302)	3	Red sand/black asphalt layers
(303)	3	Light brown-yellow clay
(304)	3	Yellow-blue clay
(305)	3	Grey-orange gravel
(400)	4	Topsoil
(401)	4	Made ground
(402)	4	Mid-orange-blue clay
(403)	4	Grey-orange gravel
(404)	4	Dark grey peaty clay

APPENDIX II: PLAN AND SECTION DRAWINGS

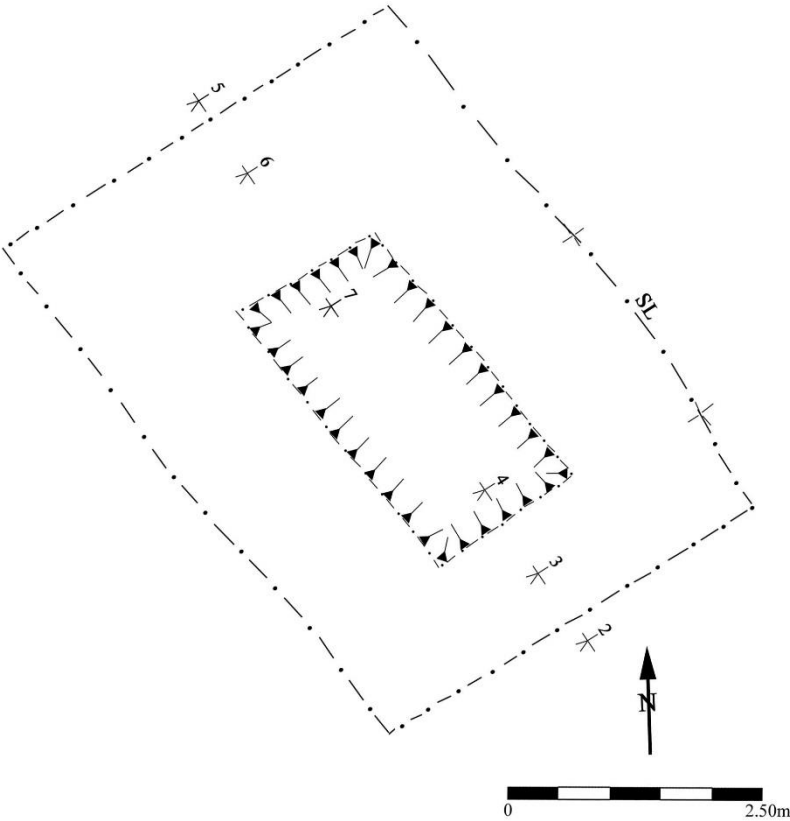


Figure 15: Plan of trench 1. Scale 1:50

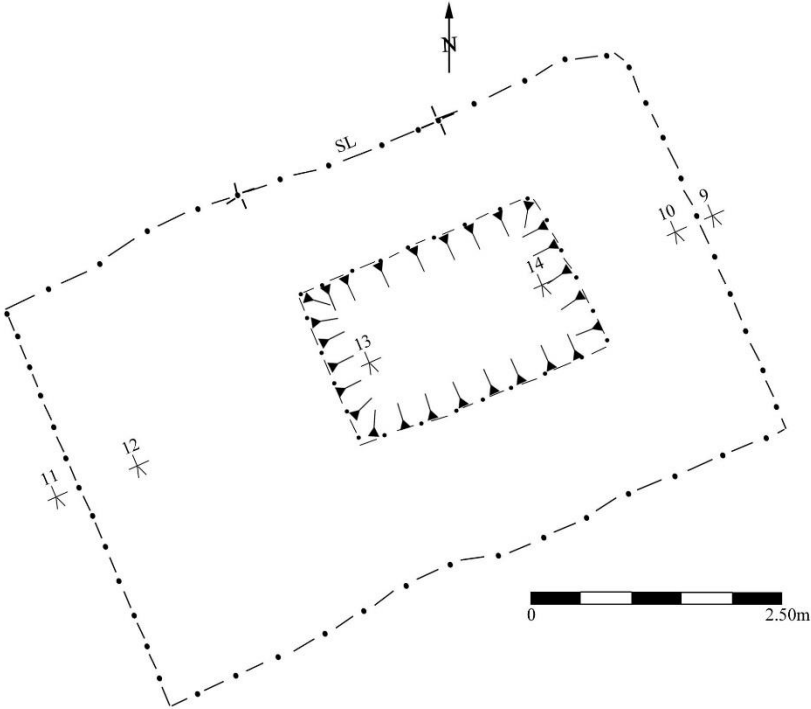


Figure 16: Plan of trench 2. Scale 1:50

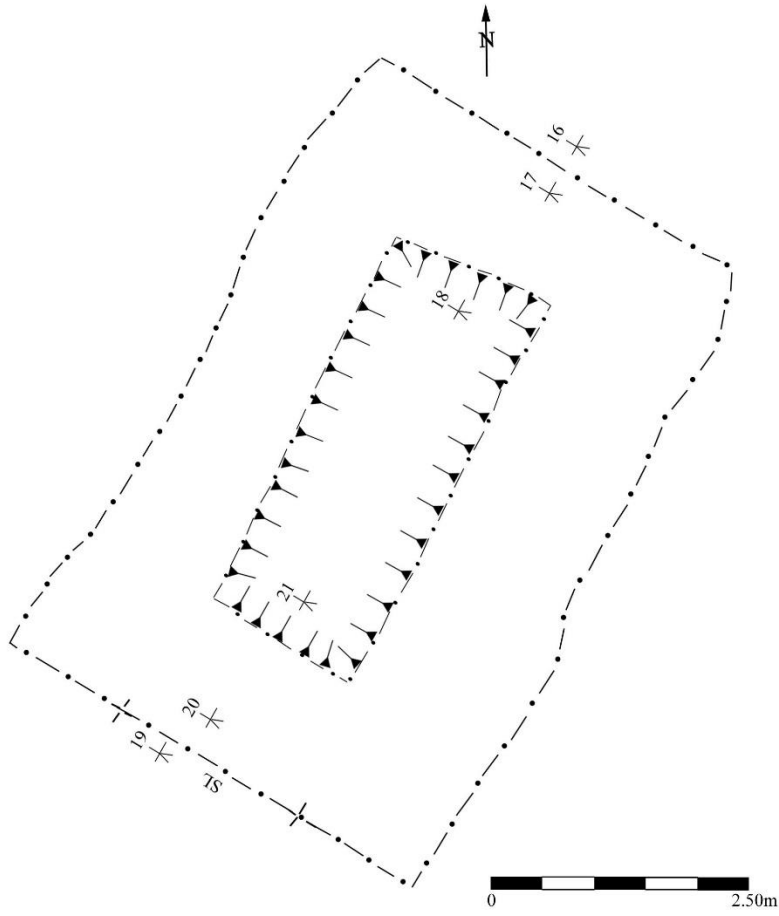


Figure 17: Plan of trench 3. Scale 1:50.

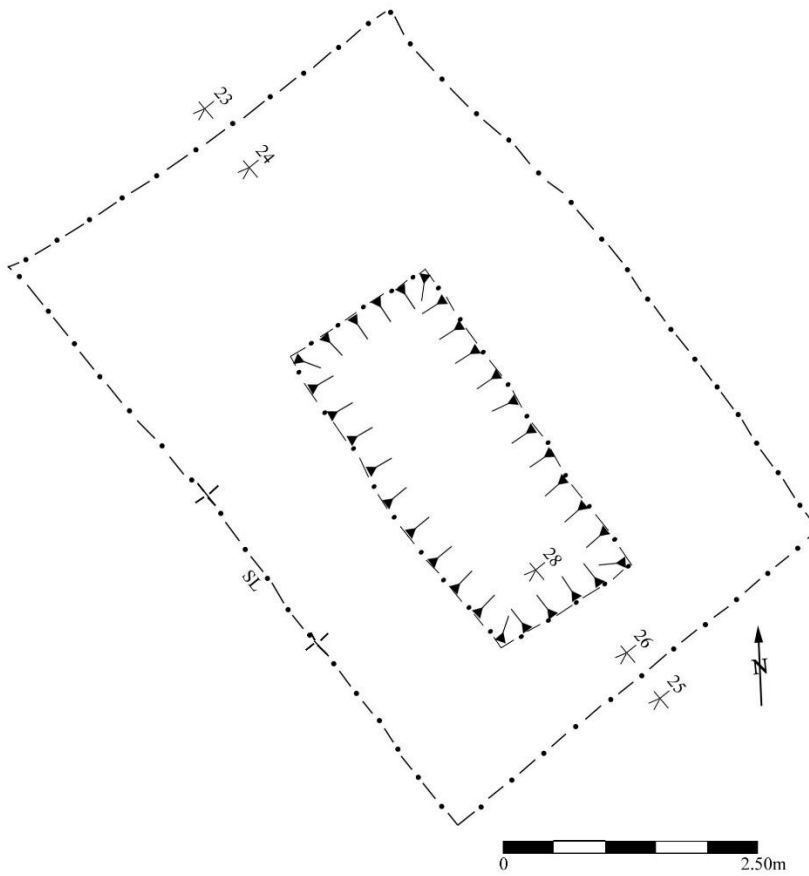


Figure 18: Plan of trench 4. Scale 1:50

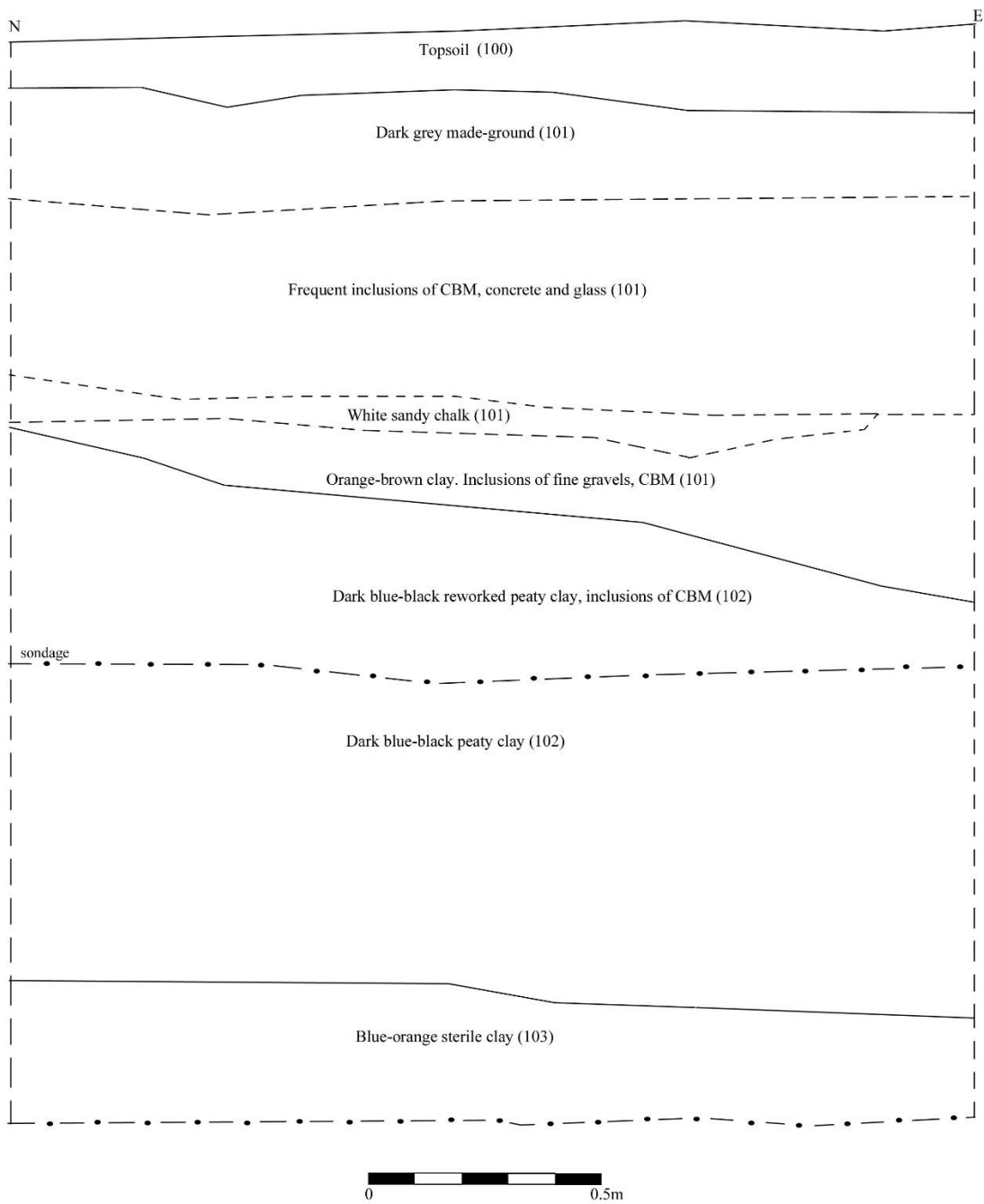


Figure 19: Trench 1 sample section, NE facing. Scale 1:10.

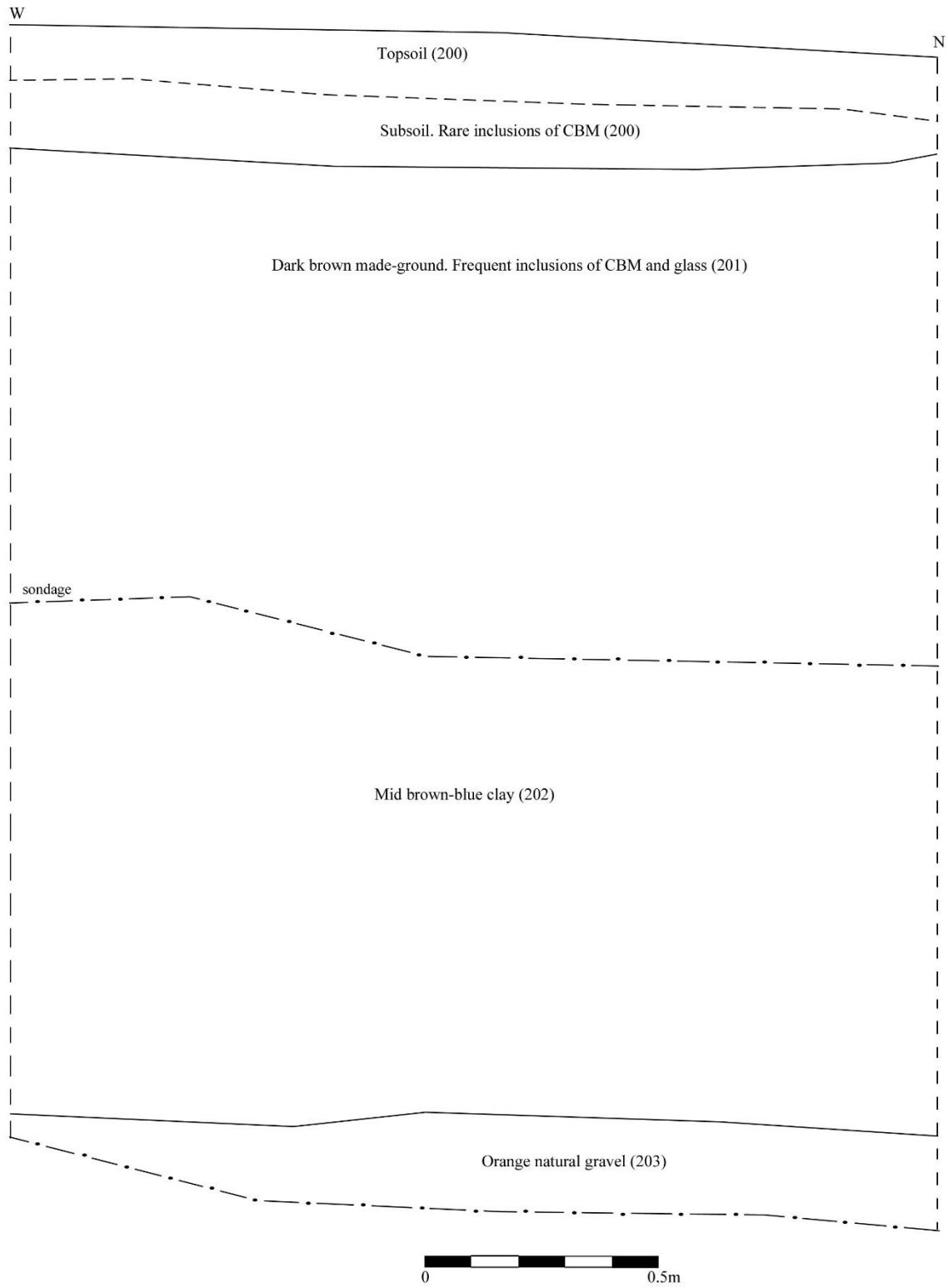


Figure 20: Trench 2 sample section. Facing NW. Scale 1:10.

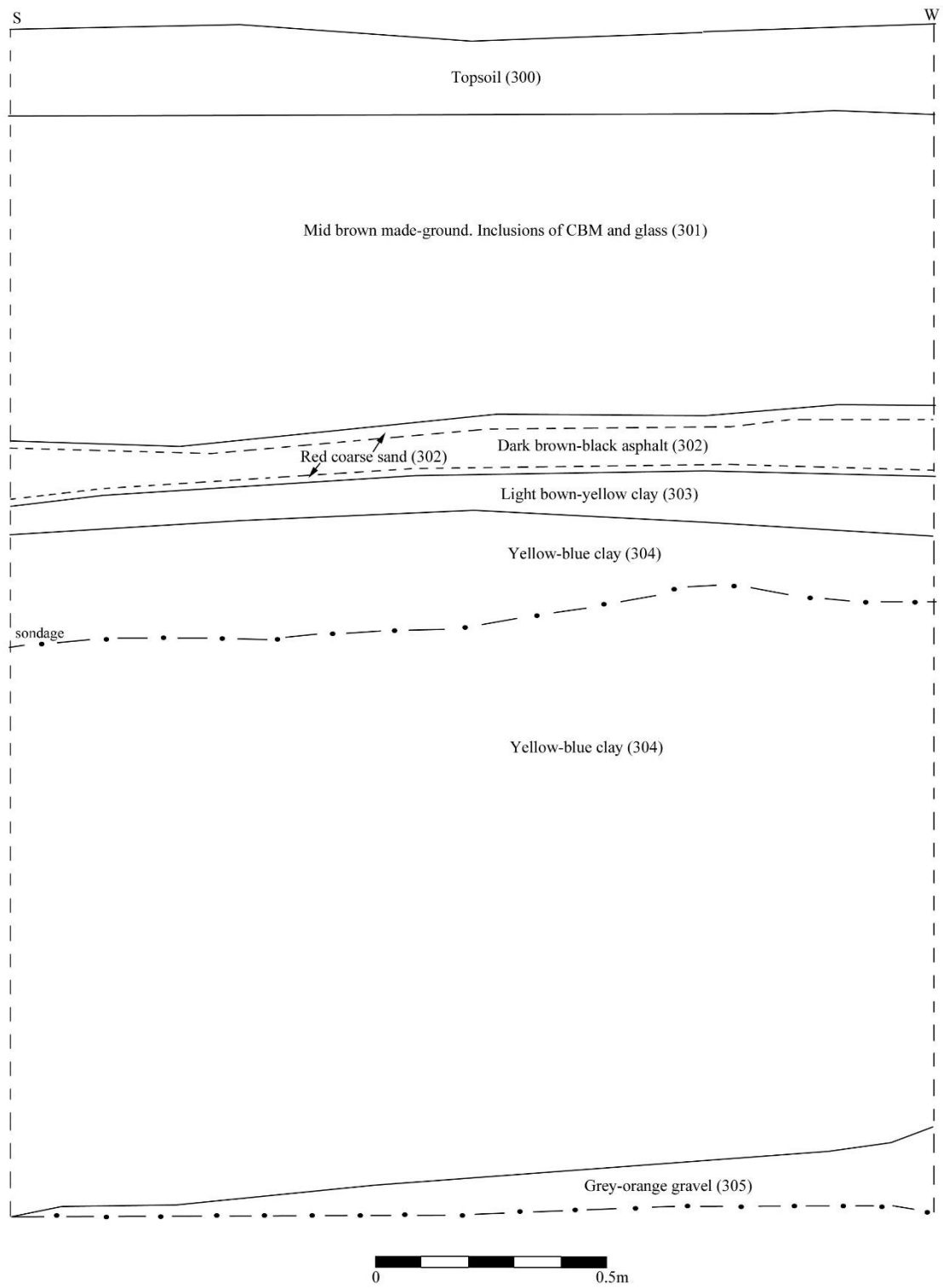


Figure 21: Trench 3 sample section. Facing SW. Scale 1:10.

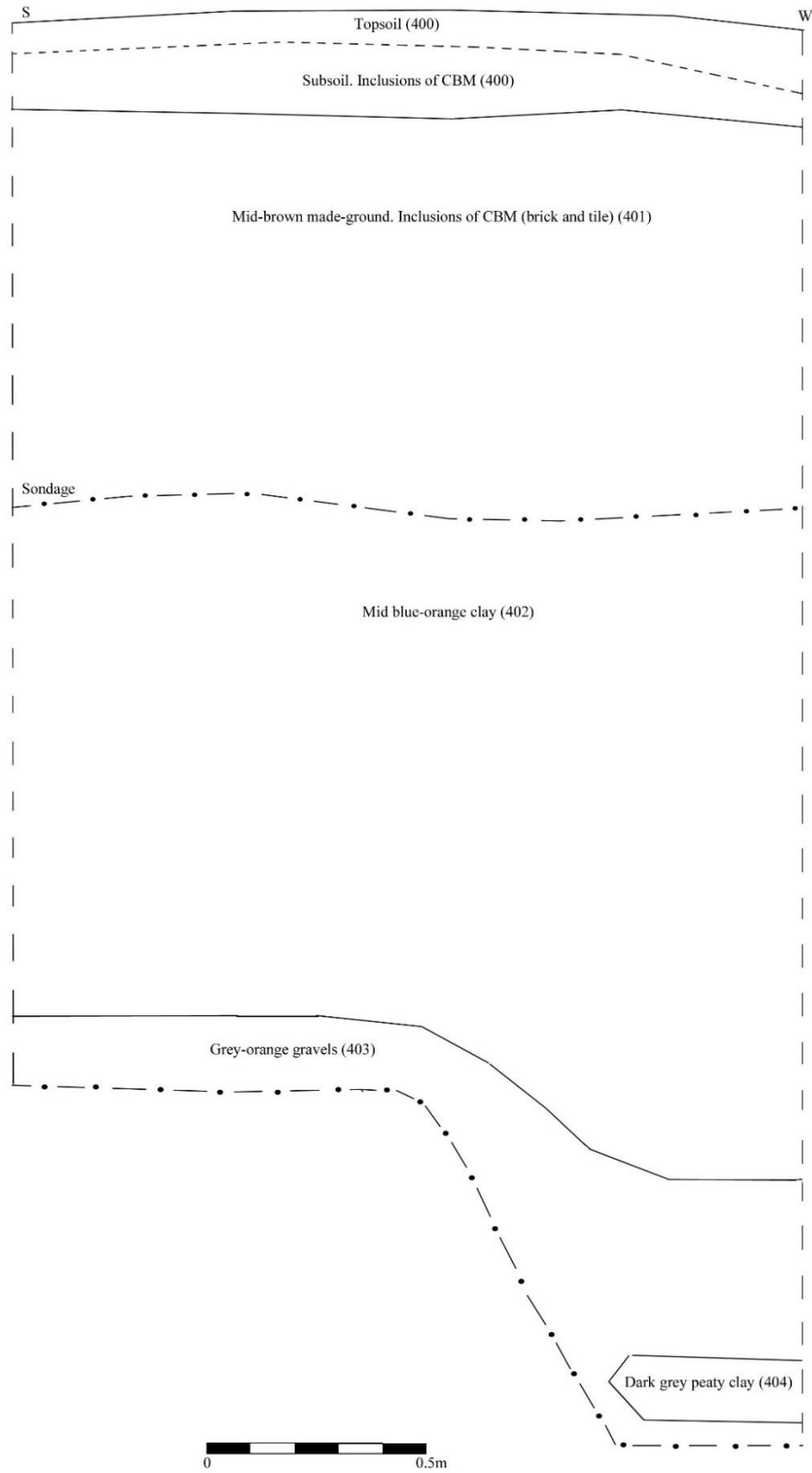


Figure 22: Trench 4 sample section. Facing SW. Scale 1:10.

DYLON 2, LAND FORMERLY KNOWN AS FOOTZIE OLD SPORTS GROUNDS, WORSLEY BRIDGE ROAD, LOWER SYDENHAM

Geoarchaeological Fieldwork Report

NGR: TQ 36874 71148

Date: 7th May 2017

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Geoarchaeological investigations were carried out at the Dylon 2 site in order to clarify the nature of the sub-surface stratigraphy, and the nature, depth, extent and date of any alluvium and organic/peat deposits (in particular, towards the south and east of the site where alluvium was identified during previous geotechnical investigations). In order to address these aims, four geoarchaeological boreholes were put down at the site, with the sediments in these sequences recorded in the laboratory. The results of the investigations indicate that the site lies on the edge of the floodplain of the River Pool: towards the east and south of the site, the underlying London Clay bedrock is overlain by a sequence of Late Devensian Gravel, Holocene alluvial sediments, and buried beneath modern Made Ground; to the northwest, the London Clay bedrock rises and is directly overlain by Made Ground (with no alluvium recorded). Although peat was identified in one borehole during the previous geotechnical investigations, no peat or organic units were identified within the alluvium in the four new geoarchaeological boreholes, indicating that peat formation was either highly localised (perhaps in small floodplain hollows), or has subsequently been eroded by fluvial (channel) activity. In fact, the alluvium in these boreholes was predominantly coarse-grained, and of limited palaeoenvironmental potential. No further environmental archaeological assessment is recommended on the sequences from the Dylon 2 site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site context

This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological investigations undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development of land at Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham (National Grid Reference: centred on TQ 36874 71148; Figures 1 & 2). Quaternary Scientific were commissioned by Compass Archaeology to undertake the geoarchaeological investigations. The site lies on the floodplain of the Pool River, around 2km to the south and upstream of its confluence with the River Ravensbourne, a tributary of the River Thames (National Grid Reference: TQ 36874 71148; Figure 1). The site is roughly triangular in shape, bounded to the north by the former Dylon International works and offices, to the southeast by the Pool River, and to the west by the London to Hayes railway line. The site is currently largely open, covering an area of *ca.* 1.9 hectares with a surface elevation of between *ca.* 23.8 and 26.6m OD (Francis, 2015).

The British Geological Survey (BGS) shows the site underlain by Palaeogene London Clay bedrock, with superficial deposits of Head towards the west, and Alluvium towards the east, both described as Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (Sheet 270, BGS, 1991). A total of 13 window samples and two cable percussion boreholes were put down during geotechnical investigations at the site in 2014 (Gilchrist, 2014; see Figure 2). In the boreholes towards the northwest of the site (BH5, BH6, WS119-WS124), the sequence comprised 0.2 to 1.7m of Made Ground, directly overlying London Clay bedrock. However, towards the east and south of the site (WS125-WS131) 0.95 to 1.65m of Made Ground overlay Alluvium, recorded to a maximum depth of 4m below ground level (bgl) (WS127) and in places described as ‘peaty’; in one borehole, the alluvium contained a peat horizon between 1.65 and 2.0m bgl (WS125). In WS127

the alluvium was underlain by sand and gravel at 4.0m bgl, whilst it appeared to be underlain by London Clay bedrock at 3.6m bgl in WS126.

2.2 Geoarchaeological, palaeoenvironmental and archaeological significance

The peat and organic alluvium recorded towards the south and east of the site represents a period of semi-terrestrial conditions on the floodplain of the Pool River, and the palaeoenvironmental potential of these sequences is therefore considered to be high. The different deposits recorded are significant as they represent different environmental conditions that would have existed in a given location. For example: (1) variations in the topography of the River Terrace Gravels underlying the southern and eastern areas of the site could indicate the position of former channels and islands on the floodplain; (2) the presence of soils and peat represent former terrestrial or semi-terrestrial land-surfaces, and (3) the less organic alluvial deposits of sands/silts/clays represent periods of varying hydrological conditions on the floodplain. By studying the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site in greater detail, it will be possible to build a greater understanding of the former landscapes and environmental changes that took place over space and time at this location.

Organic-rich sediments (in particular peat) also have high potential to provide a detailed reconstruction of prehistoric environments on both the wetland and dryland. In particular, there is the potential to increase knowledge and understanding of the interactions between hydrological change, human activity, vegetation succession and climate in this area of the Pool River Valley. Significant vegetation changes include the early Holocene/early Mesolithic transition from pine-dominated to mixed-deciduous dominated woodland; the late Mesolithic/Neolithic decline of elm woodland, the Neolithic colonisation and decline of yew woodland; the late Neolithic/early decline of wetland and dryland woodland. Such investigations are carried out through the assessment/analysis of palaeoecological remains (e.g. pollen, plant macrofossils & insects) and radiocarbon dating.

Finally, areas of high gravel topography, soils and peat represent potential areas that might have been utilised or even occupied by prehistoric people, evidence of which may be preserved in the archaeological (e.g. features and structure) and palaeoenvironmental record (e.g. changes in vegetation composition).

2.3 Aims and objectives

Further records are required to enhance our understanding of the sub-surface stratigraphy of the Dylon 2 site, and for any further assessment/analysis of the deposits (if appropriate). Five research aims relevant to the geoarchaeological investigations were outlined within the written scheme of investigation for the site (Young, 2017), as follows:

1. To clarify the nature of the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site;
2. To clarify the nature, depth, extent and date of any alluvium and organic/peat deposits (in particular, towards the south and east of the site);
3. To investigate whether the sequences contain any artefact or ecofact evidence for prehistoric or historic human activity;

4. To investigate whether the sequences contain any evidence for natural and/or anthropogenic changes to the landscape (wetland and dryland), including those related to sea level change;
5. To integrate the new geoarchaeological record with other recent work in the local area for publication in an academic journal.

In order to address the first two of these aims, the following objectives were proposed:

1. To retrieve four geoarchaeological borehole sequences (QBH1 to QBH4) at selected locations across the site (see Figure 2);
2. To use the stratigraphic data from the new geoarchaeological boreholes to produce a two-dimensional deposit model of the elevation and thickness of the main stratigraphic units at the site, including the peat and alluvium;
3. To carry out an environmental archaeological assessment (if appropriate) of selected borehole core samples incorporating: (1) range finder radiocarbon dating to determine the approximate chronology of any periods of peat formation recorded within the borehole samples; (2) a basic assessment of their archaeobotanical content, and (3) recommendations for further environmental archaeological investigations (if appropriate).

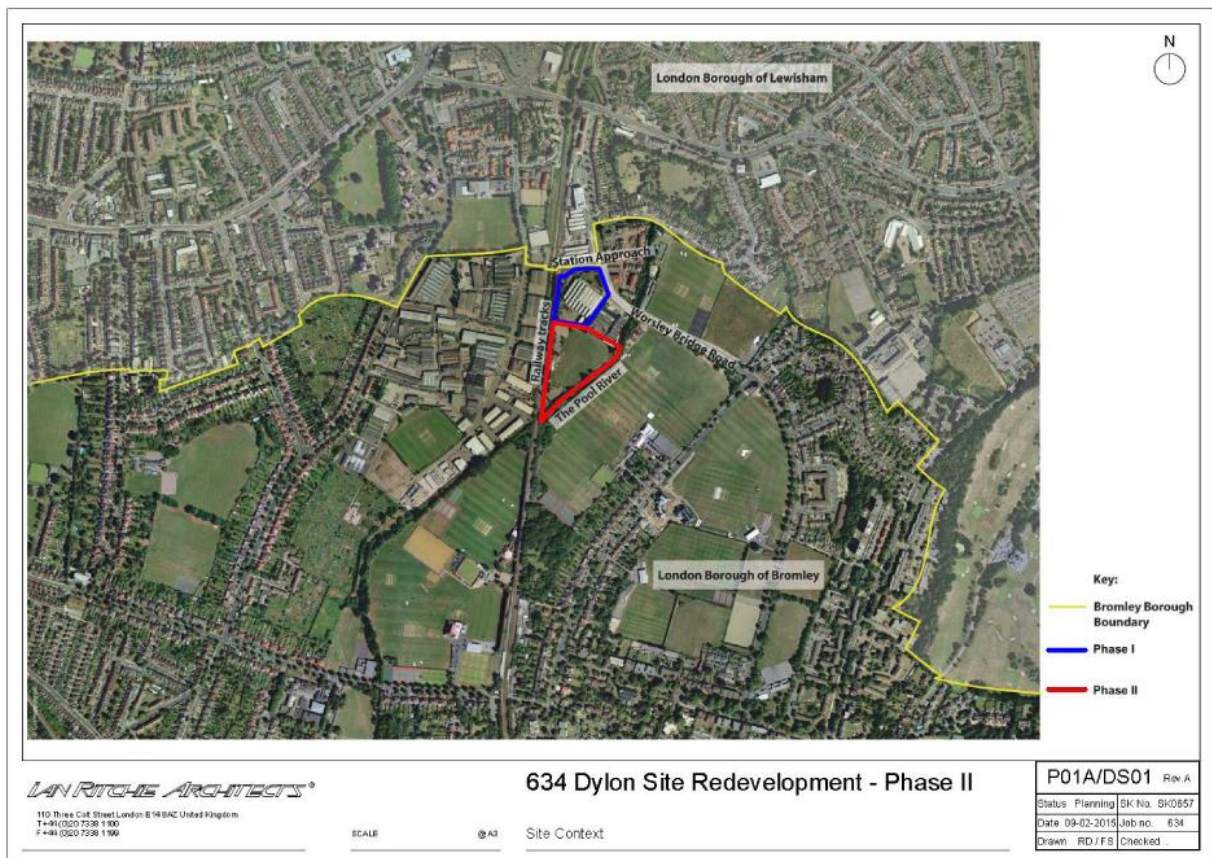
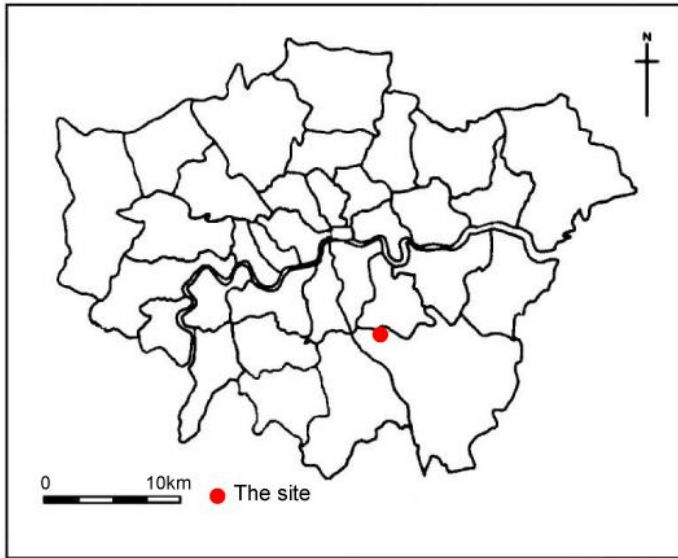


Figure 1: Location of Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham (adapted from Francis, 2015).

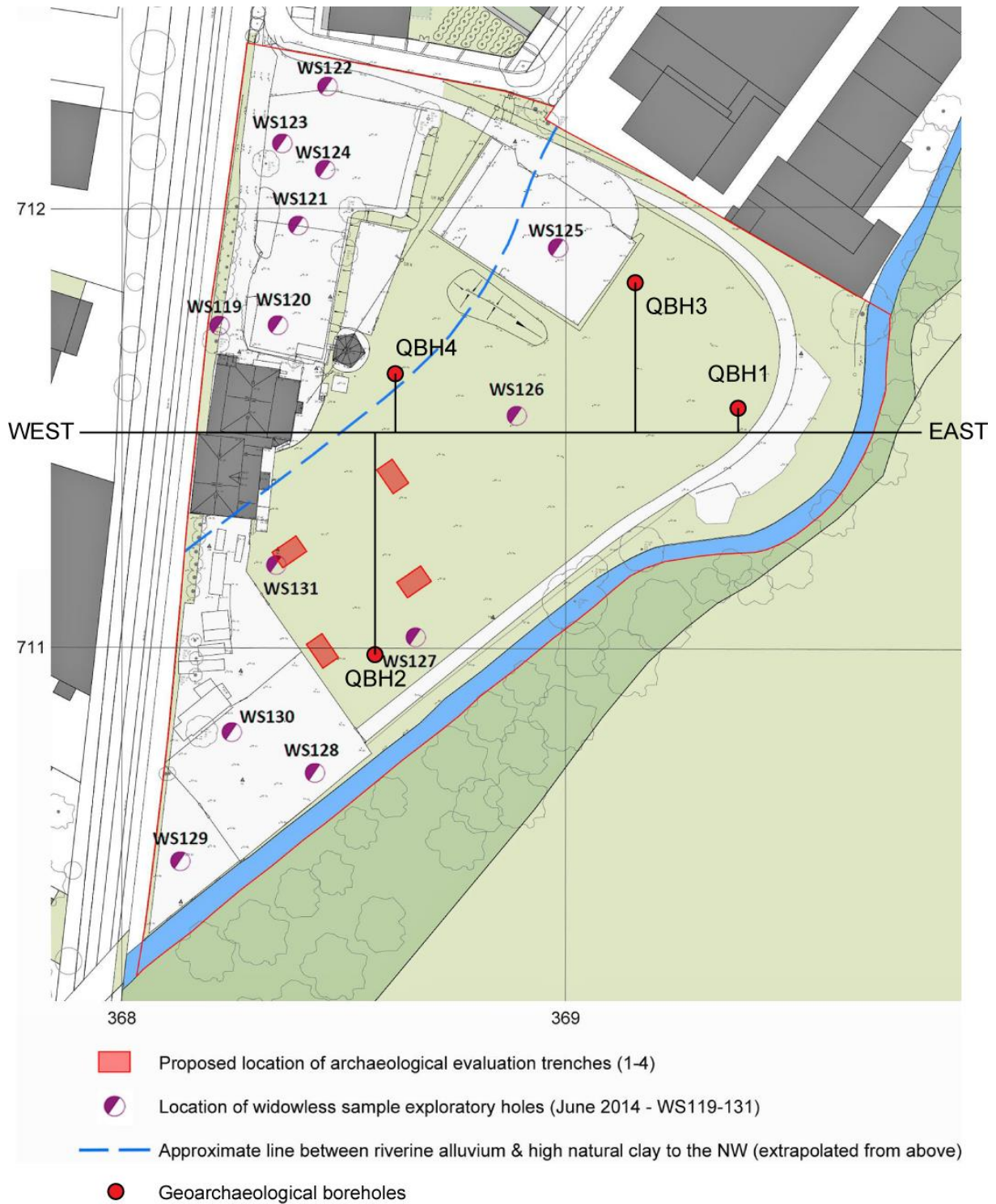


Figure 2: Location of the existing geotechnical and new geoaerchaeological boreholes (QBH1-QBH4) at Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham (original figure provided by Compass Archaeology). Alignment of the west-east transect (Figure 3) also shown.

3. METHODS

3.1 Field investigations

Four geoarchaeological boreholes (boreholes QBH1 to QBH4) were put down at the site in May 2017 by Quaternary Scientific (see Table 1 and Figure 2). The borehole core samples were recovered using an Eijkelkamp window sampler and gouge set using an Atlas Copco TT 2-stroke percussion engine. This coring techniques provide a suitable method for the recovery of continuous, undisturbed core samples and provides sub-samples suitable for not only sedimentary and microfossil assessment and analysis, but also macrofossil analysis. Spatial co-ordinates for each borehole were obtained using a Leica Differential GPS (Table 1).

3.2 Lithostratigraphic description

Laboratory-based lithostratigraphic descriptions of the new borehole samples was carried out using standard procedures for recording unconsolidated sediment and peat, noting the physical properties (colour), composition (gravel, sand, clay, silt and organic matter) and inclusions (e.g. artefacts). The procedure involved: (1) cleaning the samples with a spatula or scalpel blade and distilled water to remove surface contaminants; (2) recording the physical properties, most notably colour; (3) recording the composition e.g. gravel, fine sand, silt and clay; (4) recording the degree of peat humification, and (5) recording the unit boundaries e.g. sharp or diffuse. The results are displayed in Tables 2 to 5 and in Figure 3.

Table 1: Spatial attributes for the new geoarchaeological boreholes at Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham

Borehole	Easting	Northing	Elevation
QBH1	536933.7	171150.0	23.789
QBH2	536852.4	171101.1	23.867
QBH4	536864.1	171163.8	24.172
QBH3	536916.8	171183.0	23.987

4. RESULTS, INTERPRETATION & DISCUSSION OF THE LITHOSTRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS

The results of the lithostratigraphic descriptions of the new geoarchaeological boreholes are displayed in Tables 2 to 5; Figure 3 shows a west-transect of the four boreholes across the site. In the absence of elevation data for the previous geotechnical boreholes, these are not included in the transect, but are discussed here in terms of their depths below ground level (bgl). The full sequence of sediments recorded in the boreholes comprises:

Made Ground – widely present

Alluvium – present in the eastern and southern areas of the site

Peat – highly localised

Gravel – present in the eastern and southern areas of the site

Bedrock – London Clay; outcrops in the north-western area of the site

4.1 Bedrock (London Clay)

The surface of the London Clay bedrock was recorded in the most north-westerly of the new geoarchaeological boreholes (QBH4) at 20.77m OD (Figure 3); to the northwest of here, the London Clay was recorded at between 0.2 and 0.85m bgl in geotechnical boreholes WS119-WS124, overlain only by Made Ground or Topsoil (WS119). Although the surface of the London Clay was not reached in the remaining geoarchaeological boreholes (all of which reached depths of 3.0m bgl), the results of the investigations are consistent with a bedrock surface that rises to the north-west, off the floodplain of the River Pool, and outcrops in the north-western area of the site.

4.2 Gravel

A unit of sandy gravel was recorded in all four of the new geoarchaeological boreholes and in two of the previous geotechnical records (BH6 and WS127). This unit was most likely deposited during the Late Glacial (15,000 to 10,000 years before present; equivalent to the Shepperton Gravel of Gibbard (1994)) and comprises the sands and gravels of a high-energy braided river system which, while it was active would have been characterised by longitudinal gravel bars and intervening low-water channels in which finer-grained sediments might have been deposited. Such a relief pattern would have been present on the valley floor at the beginning of the Holocene when a lower-energy fluvial regime was being established. Although the location of BH6 is unknown, the remainder of these boreholes are all located towards the east or south of the site, demonstrating the former extent of the Late Devensian/Early Holocene river system associated with the River Pool.

In the geoarchaeological boreholes the surface of the Gravel is recorded at between 21.67 (QBH2) and 20.87m OD (QBH4) (Figure 3). It is recorded at its lowest in borehole QBH4, perhaps indicative of a former channel towards the edge of the floodplain, a feature typical of floodplains in the Lower Thames Valley and its tributaries. The surface of the Gravel at the site is therefore typical of that in a high-energy braided river system, as described above.

4.3 Alluvium

A unit of either silty and clayey, or sandy and silty alluvium was recorded overlying the Gravel in all four of the new geoarchaeological boreholes and seven of the previous geotechnical records (BH6, WS126-WS131). Although the location of BH6 is unknown, the remainder of these boreholes are all located towards the east or south of the site, indicating the extent of the floodplain of the River Pool. In its lower part the Alluvium is predominantly sandy and silty, indicative of low to moderate energy fluvial activity, perhaps during the Early to Middle Holocene when the River Pool became confined to a single meandering channel. In two sequences (QBH2 and QBH3) the upper part of the Alluvium is more clay-rich, indicative of less frequent fluvial activity and perhaps semi-aquatic conditions in the later part of the Holocene.

4.4 Peat

In one of the previous geotechnical boreholes towards the north of the site (WS125) the alluvium contained a peat horizon between 1.65 and 2.0m bgl. No peat or organic units were found in any of the new geoarchaeological boreholes, including those closest to WS125 (QBH3 and QBH1). The absence of peat in the geoarchaeological boreholes, and the fact that the peat was limited to one of the previous geotechnical records, indicate that the peat is highly localised in its extent, and was either limited

to small floodplain hollows, or may have subsequently been eroded by fluvial (channel) activity on the floodplain. Given that the sediments at similar depths below ground level in the geoarchaeological boreholes are largely fine-grained, the former hypothesis may be the more likely.

4.5 Made Ground

Between 0.95 and 2.6m of Made Ground caps the sequence across the site; in the north-western area of the site the Made Ground directly overlies the London Clay bedrock (WS119-WS124), whilst to the east and south it overlies the Alluvium (WS125-WS131; QBH1-QBH4).

Table 2: Lithostratigraphic description of borehole QBH1, Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham

Depth (m OD)	Depth (m bgl)	Description	Stratigraphic group
23.79 to 22.79	0.00 to 1.00	Made Ground of brick, mortar and concrete in matrix of silty clay.	MADE GROUND
22.79 to 21.79	1.00 to 2.00	10YR 4/1; As2 Ag1 Ga1; dark grey sandy silty clay. Diffuse contact in to:	ALLUVIUM
21.79 to 21.49	2.00 to 2.30	Gley2 4/10G; Ag3 As1 Ga+; dark greenish grey clayey silt with a trace of sand. Sharp contact in to:	
21.49 to 21.13	2.30 to 2.66	10YR 4/4; Ga3 Ag1 As+; dark yellowish brown silty sand with a trace of clay; some orange mottling especially below 2.54m bgl. Sharp contact in to:	
21.13 to 20.79	2.66 to 3.00	10YR 4/1; Gg3 Ga1; dark grey sandy gravel. Clasts are flint, up to 40mm in diameter, rounded to well-rounded.	GRAVEL

Table 3: Lithostratigraphic description of borehole QBH2, Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham

Depth (m OD)	Depth (m bgl)	Description	Stratigraphic group
23.87 to 22.77	0.00 to 1.10	Made Ground of brick, mortar and concrete in matrix of silty clay.	MADE GROUND
22.77 to 21.87	1.10 to 2.00	10YR 4/1; Ag2 As2 Ga+; dark grey silt and clay with a trace of sand. Some orange mottling. Diffuse contact in to:	ALLUVIUM
21.87 to 21.67	2.00 to 2.20	10YR 4/3; Ga2 Ag1 As1; brown silty clayey sand with frequent	

		iron modules. Diffuse contact in to:	
21.67 to 21.46	2.20 to 2.41	10YR 4/1; Gg3 Ga1; dark grey sandy gravel. Clasts are flint, up to 40mm in diameter, rounded to well-rounded. Diffuse contact in to:	GRAVEL
21.46 to 21.07	2.41 to 2.80	10YR 4/1; Ag2 Ga2 Dh+; dark grey silt and clay with detrital herbaceous material. Sharp contact in to:	
21.07 to 20.87	2.80 to 3.00	10YR 3/1; Gg3 Ga1; very dark grey sandy gravel. Clasts are flint, up to 50mm in diameter, well-rounded.	

Table 4: Lithostratigraphic description of borehole QBH3, Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham

Depth (m OD)	Depth (m bgl)	Description	Stratigraphic group
23.99 to 22.53	0.00 to 1.46	Made Ground of brick, mortar and concrete in matrix of silty clay.	MADE GROUND
22.53 to 21.99	1.46 to 2.00	10YR 4/1; Ag2 As2; dark grey silt and clay. Diffuse contact in to:	ALLUVIUM
21.99 to 21.74	2.00 to 2.25	Gley1 4/10Y; Ag2 As1 Ga1; dark grey clayey sandy silt. Fragment of charcoal (8mm) at 2.08m bgl. Diffuse contact in to:	
21.74 to 21.62	2.25 to 2.37	Gley1 4/10Y; Ag2 As1 Ga1 Gg+; dark grey clayey sandy silt with occasional gravel clasts. Sharp contact in to:	
21.62 to 20.99	2.37 to 3.00	Gley1 6/10Y; Ga3 Ag1 Gg+; grey silty sand with occasional gravel clasts. Gravel clasts are flint, <10mm in diameter. Diffuse contact in to:	
20.99 to 20.94	3.00 to 3.05	10YR 3/1; Gg3 Ga1; very dark grey sandy gravel. Clasts are flint, up to 50mm in diameter, well-rounded.	GRAVEL

Table 5: Lithostratigraphic description of borehole QBH4, Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham

Depth (m OD)	Depth (m bgl)	Description	Stratigraphic group
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24.17 to 22.77	0.00 to 1.40	Made Ground of brick, mortar and concrete in matrix of silty clay.	MADE GROUND
22.77 to 21.57	1.40 to 2.60	10YR 4/1; As2 Ag1 Ga1; dark grey sandy silty clay. Some orange mottling. Diffuse contact in to:	ALLUVIUM
21.57 to 20.87	2.60 to 3.30	10YR 4/1; Ag2 Ga2 As+; dark grey silt and sand with a trace of clay. Sharp contact in to:	
20.87 to 20.77	3.30 to 3.40	10YR 4/1; Gg2 Ga1 Ag1; dark grey silty sandy gravel. Clasts are flint, up to 20mm in diameter, well-rounded. Contact obscured:	GRAVEL
20.77 to 20.17	3.40 to 4.00	10YR 4/1; As3 Ag1; stiff dark grey silty clay.	LONDON CLAY

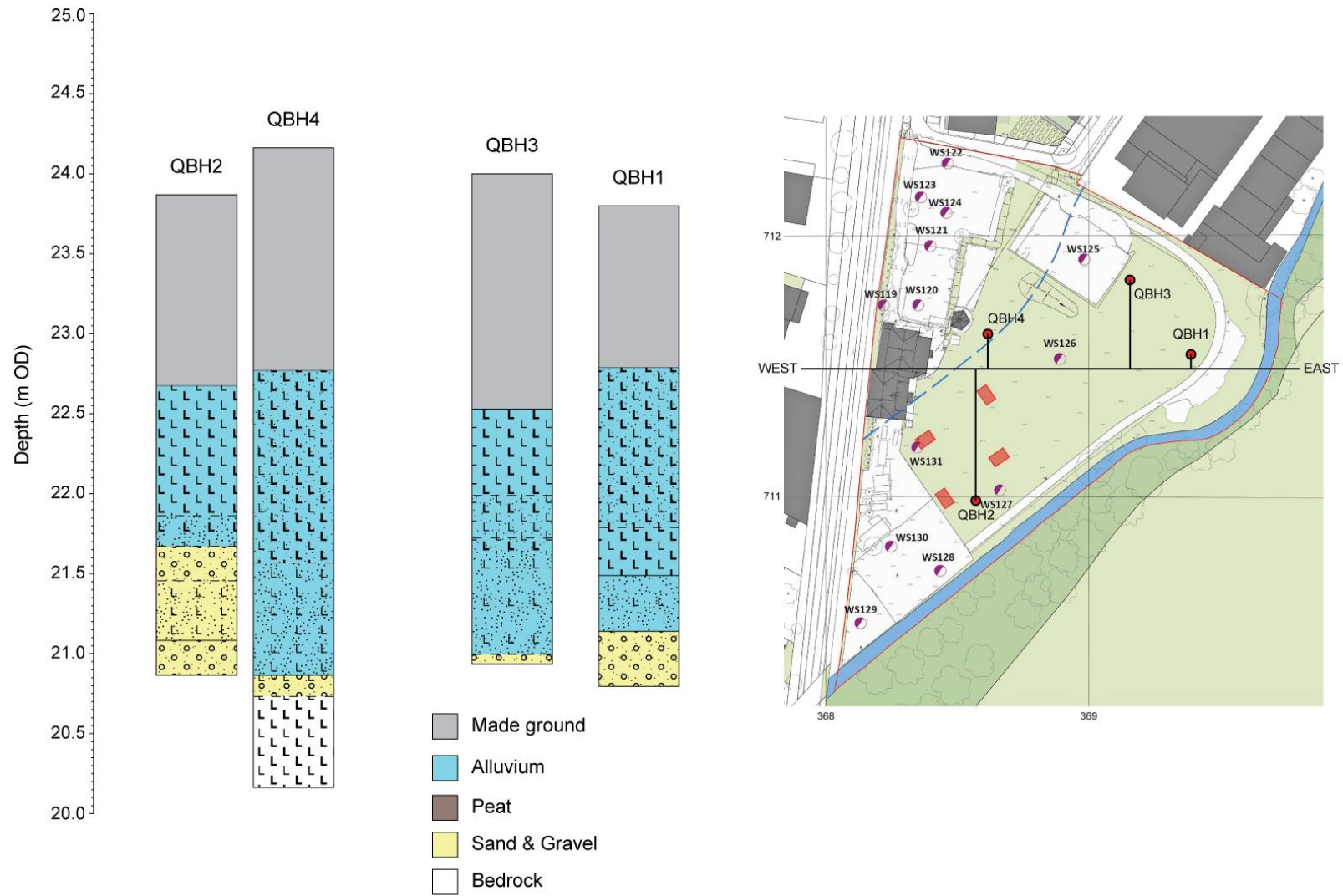


Figure 3: West-east transect of geotechnical boreholes across the site at Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham.

5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Geoarchaeological investigations were carried out at the Dylon 2 site in order to: (1) clarify the nature of the sub-surface stratigraphy; and (2) clarify the nature, depth, extent and date of any alluvium and organic/peat deposits (in particular, towards the south and east of the site). In order to address these aims, a total of four geoarchaeological boreholes were put down at the site and their lithostratigraphy recorded both in the field and under laboratory conditions.

The results of the geoarchaeological investigations indicate that the Dylon 2 site lies on the edge of the floodplain of the River Pool: towards the east and south of the site, the underlying London Clay bedrock is overlain by a sequence of Late Devensian Gravel, Holocene alluvial sediments, and buried beneath modern Made Ground; to the northwest of the site, the London Clay bedrock rises and is directly overlain by Made Ground with no alluvium recorded. Although peat was identified in one borehole during the previous geotechnical investigations, no peat or organic units were identified within the alluvium in the four new geoarchaeological boreholes. This indicates that peat formation at the site was either highly localised (perhaps in small floodplain hollows), or has subsequently been eroded by fluvial (channel) activity at the site. In fact, the alluvium in these boreholes was largely coarse-grained, and of limited palaeoenvironmental potential. With this in mind, no further environmental archaeological assessment is recommended on the sequences from the Dylon 2 site.

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APPENDIX IV: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: [compassa1-287109](#)

Project details

Project name	Dylon 2: Land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Lower Sydenham SE26
Short description of the project	Archaeology were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of Dylon 2, land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Ground, Worsely Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham, London Borough of Bromley, SE26 5BQ, between the 15th and 18th May 2017. This was part of a planning application process for a residential development and public park (planning ref: 17/00170/FULL1). Four test trenches measuring 6.08-6.90m long by 4.25-4.55m wide were machine excavated. A sondage was dug in the centre of each trench to a depth of 2.35-2.55m. Four geoarchaeological boreholes were taken by QUEST over the same period. The stratigraphy was generally similar across the site, comprising 0.18-0.20m of topsoil, overlying 0.65-1.03m of modern made ground. The made ground generally overlay 0.98-1.22m of alluvial clay, with natural gravels at the extent of excavation. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recovered from any of the trenches, and the boreholes found the alluvium to be of little paleoenvironmental potential. The sequence is attributed to flooding from the Pool River, depositing alluvium and rare deposits of peaty clay in natural hollows in the floodplain. The made ground was most likely deposited when the previously open floodplain land was developed into a sports field in the late 19th century. The land has since been largely abandoned. The lowest level recorded was 21.73m OD.
Project dates	Start: 15-05-2017 End: 18-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Environmental Sampling", "Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BROMLEY BROMLEY Dylon 2: Land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Ground. Site code WOY17
Postcode	SE26 5BQ
Study area	18650 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 536874 171148 50.932402190894 0.187371970166 50 55 56 N 000
11 14 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Historic England
Project design originator	Isambard Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	James Aaronson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive ID	WOY17
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Archive ID	WOY17
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Dylon 2: Land formerly known as Footzie Old Sports Grounds, Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham, Bromley, SE26. Site code: WOY17
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fulbright, M.
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, London, SW11 3SJ
Description	A short report summarising the results of the field evaluation. Contains relevant background details including reasons for commission, site location, historical and archaeological background and site and post-excavation methodology. Results include plans, photographs and text of the works with a short discussion and conclusion. Results are supported by specialist analysis.

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Entered on	9 June 2017