

**158-162 TOOTING HIGH STREET, SW17 0RT  
LONDON BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



November 2009





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SITE CODE: THQ 09

SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 27230 71135

PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 2005/2794

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Project: wand 005

### ***Abstract***

*Archaeological evaluation of a site on the western side of Tooting High Street, LB of Wandsworth, took place between September and November 2009. The evaluation was carried out as part of the planning process, prior to development of a new two and four-storey building combining retail, business and residential use (Application Ref. 2005/2794).*

*The site lies in an Archaeological Priority Area, reflecting the projected course of the Roman Stane Street on the approximate line of the present A24 (Tooting High Street, etc.). Historic maps show that latterly the site lay largely within open agricultural land, until residential development in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. From the 1950s the land was progressively given over to commercial and business use.*

*The evaluation took place under present site conditions, including standing buildings and a motor repair works to the rear. Three machine trenches and four test pits were located within the redevelopment footprint, covering just over 50 sq. metres. Particular attention was given to area adjacent to Tooting High Street and close to the putative line of the Roman Road.*

*No significant remains were found, although there was evidence for 19<sup>th</sup> century development that can be closely related to the cartographic record. Moreover, the exposed foundations included part of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century chapel or Mission Hall – a small building originally about 6 by 7m in plan, though later extended. This structure is of some local historical interest and must have played a distinct role as the area changed from countryside to a London suburb. Remains included an original external brick base some 450mm thick and some 6 courses high, a shallow internal footing of the same date, and two adjoining walls that formed part of the later 19<sup>th</sup> century frontage.*

*Other development evidence was limited to later 19<sup>th</sup> century housing and construction of a filling station – including underground fuel tanks – in the 1960s. Elsewhere 20<sup>th</sup> century development had caused extensive disturbance and truncation, although the centre and rear of the site retained buried soil profiles sealed by construction deposits. However, there was no evidence for any activity – either in situ or residual – prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Natural sandy or clayey silt was exposed throughout the area of investigation, except where cut away by deep modern intrusions.*

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1** This report presents a summary of archaeological evaluation of a proposed redevelopment site on the western side of Tooting High Street, in the London Borough of Wandsworth. The evaluation took place as part of the planning process for erection of a two and four-storey building, combining retail, business and residential use (LB of Wandsworth Planning Ref. 2005/2794).

The evaluation fieldwork was undertaken by Compass Archaeology in two stages, between the 18<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

- 1.2** The site lies in an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the local UDP: this reflects the projected line of the Roman Stane Street, which roughly follows the present A24 (Tooting High Street, *etc.*) as far south as Colliers Wood. Historic maps show that in more recent times the site lay largely within open agricultural land, until residential development in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. From the 1950s the land was progressively given over to commercial and business use.
- 1.3** English Heritage have advised that a preliminary archaeological evaluation of the site should be undertaken in response to the condition of planning consent, prior to redevelopment.

A subsequent Written Scheme detailed the proposed evaluation. This took place under present site conditions with two main standing buildings, a redundant furnishing store to the front and an active motor repair works to the rear. Three machine trenches and four smaller test pits were dug in accessible areas within the redevelopment footprint: particular attention was given to the present forecourt, adjacent to Tooting High Street and close to the putative line of the Roman Road.

## **2. Acknowledgements**

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Mr Nadeem Siddiqi of UK Asset Management Ltd. Further assistance was given during the fieldwork programme by Mr Sulaiman Amejee.

The fieldwork was monitored by Mark Stevenson and Robert Whytehead of English Heritage GLAAS, on behalf of the LB of Wandsworth.

Brick samples from the evaluation were examined by John Brown of Gifford.

## **3. Background**

### **3.1 Location and topography**

The site occupies a more or less rectangular plot measuring some 50m by 30m in plan, facing southeast onto Tooting High Street and approximately centred at National Grid Reference TQ 27230 71135 (Figure 1).

The British Geological Survey (*Sheet 270*, 1998) indicates that the site overlies a natural Head deposit (described as silt, sand and clay with variable gravel). River Terrace Deposits (Taplow Gravel) are located some 200-350m to the north and west.

Topographically the site lies just to the south of a low east-west ridge, and at about 18.00m OD. Further to the south the ground falls away towards the historic course of the Graveney stream, to about 15.00m OD. To the north there is a shallower drop, to just below 16.00m OD at the junction with Garratt Lane and Mitcham Road.



Fig 1 The site location in relation to the current Ordnance Survey 1:250 map

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## 3.2 Archaeology and history

- 3.2.1** There are a number of references to prehistoric activity in the area, particularly on the gravel terraces of the Wandle Valley to the south and west. The closest finds appear to be from investigation at St George's Hospital, approximately 200m to the west of the present site (site code SGH93). This site produced Iron Age pottery, with some potentially earlier features and worked flint.
- 3.2.2** The present site lies on or close to the projected line of Stane Street, the major Roman Road from London to Chichester. The course of the road is not entirely known, although it evidently ran in a fairly straight line from London Bridge southwards to Merton and Ewell (Margary 1973, 58). In the Balham/Tooting area this line is more or less indicated by the present A24.

Investigations just over 1 km the south of the present site, at Priory Road, Colliers Wood, have revealed the full width of the Roman road (Saxby 1997). The road formed a southward continuation of the High Street Colliers Wood and Tooting High Street, at the point at which the present route turns to the west to become Merton High Street. Two main phases of Roman road construction were identified together with associated roadside ditches, apparently dating to the mid 1<sup>st</sup> and later 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD. The initial road width was about 13m, subsequently increased to between 16m and 19m, whilst construction thickness (mainly gravel & flint) was generally 100 to 300mm.

The investigation at St George's Hospital (SGH93) also produced a small number of Roman remains, including pottery, one possible posthole or pit and a 4<sup>th</sup> century coin.

- 3.2.3** The site lies within the civil parish of Tooting Graveney, a name that is of Saxon and medieval origin (Field 1980, 92). The Domesday Survey of 1086 also records two manors: *Upper Tooting* (or Tooting Bec) and *Lower Tooting* (or Tooting Graveney), both of which seem to have formed small farming communities (VCH 1912).
- 3.2.4** The more recent history of the site can be summarised from cartographic evidence. Rocque's survey of c 1746 shows the road line – the present High Street – but places the site itself in open agricultural land (Fig 2 overleaf). A similar picture is given by the Surveyors' drawing of 1804-6 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2-inch: mile Ordnance Survey (not illustrated). The 1847 Tithe map and the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25-inch map of 1866-68 (Figs 3 & 4) both show the bulk of the area as open land, identified as arable field by the accompanying Tithe Apportionment. However, near the southern corner of the site there is a small building, referred to as a Chapel in the Apportionment and as a Mission Room on the OS plan. The Tithe map also gives this building a narrow garden plot to the rear, running along the southwestern side of the present site.

By the time that the OS 25-inch Second Edition was surveyed in the mid 1890s two semi-detached houses had been built, occupying the centre and northern third of the present site area (*cf.* Fig 15). The Mission Room had also been extended to the rear and substantially forward towards the road line (or possibly wholly rebuilt). Subsequent OS revisions in 1913-14 and in the 1930s give the same picture for both parts of the site, whilst Kelly's Directory for 1890 reveals that the Mission Room was run by the Evangelization Society.

On the OS map of 1949 (Plan TQ 2771 SW; not illustrated) the northern half of the semi-detached dwelling has disappeared, to be replaced by a smaller detached building. A similarly-sized structure has also appeared to the rear of the surviving house, and two further structures to the rear of the Mission Room (though no longer identified as such). By 1953 the whole rear of the site is occupied by a confectionery works, apparently the building that still exists today. In 1966 the front area is shown as a garage and the Mission Room has disappeared, although the adjacent house has yet to be replaced by the present furnishing store.



Fig 2 The approximate location of the site in relation to Rocque's map of c 1746





Fig 3 The site outline in relation to the Tithe map of 1847



Fig 4 The site outline in relation to the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25-inch map of 1866-68, and covering the same area as Figure 3

## **4. Aims and objectives of the evaluation**

### **4.1 Archaeology and planning**

The proposed development will entail the erection of a two and four-storey building, combining a mixture of retail (Class A1) and business (Class B1) use at ground floor level with residential flats above (LB of Wandsworth Planning Ref. 2005/2794). The new building will adjoin the present street frontage, with an access road along the south side dropping to a semi-basement car park at the rear. The planning consent includes an archaeological condition (No. 4), in accordance with Council policies TBE14 and TBE15.

A preliminary archaeological evaluation of the site was recommended by English Heritage 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.

The general methodology is set out in DOE Planning Policy Guidance 'Archaeology and Planning' No.16, November 1990 (PPG16).

In addition, a site-specific *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* was produced (Compass Archaeology, Sept. 2009). In the course of the fieldwork slight amendments were made to the positions of trial trenches 1 and 3, in order to avoid potentially live services.

### **4.3 Archaeological research questions**

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

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, and what is the stratigraphic context and date range?
- Is there any evidence for Roman activity? In particular, can potential features or deposits (*eg*, ditches or metallated surfaces) be related to the projected line of Stane Street?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon or medieval activity, and can the nature of this be defined – for example, agriculture or settlement?
- What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, and does this add anything to what is known from cartographic sources relating to the development of the area?
- What remains or features survive from the 19<sup>th</sup> century development of the site, in particular the Mission Room that had been constructed by the mid 1840s near the southern corner?

## 5. Evaluation methodology

5.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the English Heritage guidelines (including *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork*, 1998) and those of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations*). A Written Scheme was produced and agreed prior to the start of fieldwork.

5.2 The field evaluation comprised three trial trenches plus four smaller test pits, located within the area of the proposed redevelopment area as shown on Figure 5 below. Two of the trenches measured *c* 8m by 1.8m in plan and the third *c* 5m by 1.8m, whilst the test pits were about 1.8m square in plan (slightly longer & narrower in the case of TP1). Collectively these investigations covered a total area of just over 50 square metres at the level of potential archaeology or natural.

The trenches were opened by a JCB mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket and working under archaeological supervision, and the test pits by hand labour. Recent deposits, made ground and undifferentiated soil horizons were removed to a depth generally between 0.8m and 1.1m. Thereafter the exposed surfaces and sections were investigated by hand, recorded, drawn and photographed by the on-site archaeologists.

5.3 The deposits and features exposed in the evaluation were recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets (excluding recent material) and by scaled plan and section, supplemented by 35mm and digital photography. Levels were derived from an existing site survey that included the adjacent plots (Nos. 144-48), and ultimately from an OSBM located at 171 Tooting High Street (value 19.64m OD).

The evaluation trench and test pit positions were located to the existing site buildings or boundaries by taped measurement, with the resultant plan in turn related as a 'best fit' to the Ordnance Survey grid as derived from the 1:1250 map.

The records from the evaluation have been allocated the site code: THQ09 by the Museum of London Archaeological Archive. An ordered and indexed site archive will be compiled in line with the MoL *Guidelines* and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archive.



Fig 5 Plan showing the location of the evaluation trenches (TR 1-3) and the test pits (TP1-4) in relation to the existing buildings, excluding the garage in the area of TP1.

*Based on an Existing Site/Roof Plan by Alan Camp Architects, drawing no. 0687/001*



## 6. The archaeological evaluation

### 6.1 Summary of the findings

The evaluation trenches and test pits were dug from a fairly level and uniform surface, at between *c* 17.70m to 18.25m OD. Levels rose slightly from south to north, presumably reflecting the general topographical rise that can be observed along the line of the present road (*cf.* 3.1 above). Excavation was generally to the top of the clean natural deposit, removing recent made ground and disturbed material, although some overlying deposits and features were investigated more thoroughly by hand.

In general the sequence was quite straightforward, with considerable areas of recent truncation particularly in the southeastern part of the site. Elsewhere part or all of a buried soil profile was observed, predating various phases of development from the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The investigations are described below in relation to the development history of the site, in the absence of any significant earlier finds. Thus the description starts with Test Pit 1 and evidence for the initial 19<sup>th</sup> century building: this is followed by Trench 1 and Test Pit 2, which revealed additions to this structure and other development in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The remaining trenches and trial pits exposed 20<sup>th</sup> century construction, in particular of fuel tanks associated with the garage that appeared in the southeastern part of the site in the 1960s.

### 6.2 List of recorded contexts:

Context	Trench/ Test pit	Description	Interpretation
+	ALL	Various deposits, including frequent building rubble and other very mixed made ground with modern inclusions	Recent deposits/levelling, including demolition material and other disturbed made ground
1	TR 1	Substantial red brick wall base up to 0.58m thick, with two separate lines meeting at 90°	Part of extension to the Meeting Room (eastern corner), later 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
2	“	Construction cut for above	As above, trench built so no separate backfill
3	“	Firm mixed dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel & inclusions of ceramic building material (CBM), <i>etc.</i>	Truncated and disturbed subsoil horizon, outside area of [1] so basically earlier-mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century
4	TR 2	Continuous concrete construction	Top of a series of fuel tanks, dating to the use of this area as a garage / filling station ( <i>c</i> 1960s-80s)
5	TR 3	Concrete construction, plus an overlying deposit of softer sandy mortar	Probable further tank plus infill/capping after disuse
6	“	Firm dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional CBM inclusions	Localised & truncated subsoil horizon, probably first half of 20 <sup>th</sup> century

Context	Trench/ Test pit	Description	Interpretation
7	ALL	Firm, orange to light brown sandy to clayey silt; more clayey towards the SE part of the site. Scattered to occasionally moderate medium-fine gravel inclusion	Undisturbed natural deposit, presumably Head as identified by the Geological Survey
8	TP1	Single line of unmortared bricks 0.22m wide, at northern end abutting the wall base [10 ] and cut into deposit [11]	Base, presumably for an internal wall within the earlier 19 <sup>th</sup> century Meeting Room. Apparently part of the original construction
9	“	Dark brown silty deposit with occasional CBM frags.	Construction backfill against base of [10]
10	“	Substantial red brick wall base c 0.45m thick, aligned SW-NE	Original external (rear) wall of the earlier 19 <sup>th</sup> century Meeting Room
11	“	Very firm medium-dark greenish brown slightly sandy silt, with occasional building rubble inclusions & pebbles	Truncated subsoil deposit, surface disturbed but mainly predating the Meeting Room construction
12	TP2	Brick wall base on concrete footing	Part of rear wall of later 19 <sup>th</sup> century semi-detached house
13	“	Mid brown sandy silt with thin (<15mm) overlying deposit of mixed silt, mortar & very occ. CBM frags.	Buried surface/deposit, representing construction surface for later 19 <sup>th</sup> century development here ( <i>cf.</i> [12])
14	“	Firm dark grey sandy silt with occ. CBM inclusions, slightly lighter to base	Buried soil profile, sealed by [13] so probably mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century+
15	TP3	Mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with scattered pebbles/gravel	Subsoil deposit, truncated by mid-later 20 <sup>th</sup> century features
16	TP4	Very firm dark grey-brown sandy silt with occ. pebbles & CBM/coal frags., plus patchy overlying deposit (<25mm) of light brown sandy gravel	Buried soil, sealed by probable construction surface for adjacent (early 1950s) standing building
17	“	Firm mid-brown sandy silt with scattered med-fine flints/pebbles	Subsoil deposit, lower part of soil profile described above

### 6.3 Test Pit 1

**6.3.1** Test Pit 1 was dug close to the southwestern boundary of the site, within a single storey garage attached to the main building, and measured some 1.25m by 2.35m by in plan.

The upper level of the pit consisted of a substantial concrete slab overlying rubble and made ground approximately 0.5m thick. The lower level of this deposit included elements of a previous concrete slab, but in association with some fairly recent brickwork and so removed as part of the clearance operation.

**6.3.2** Below this level two brick wall bases were exposed. The more substantial of these [10] crossed the pit from southwest to northeast and was some 450mm thick. To the south this was abutted by a single line of unmortared brick, laid with stretcher faces adjoining and *c* 220mm wide. Both wall bases were cut into a firm slightly sandy silt [11], in the case of [10] with a wider construction cut and associated fill [9] visible to the south.

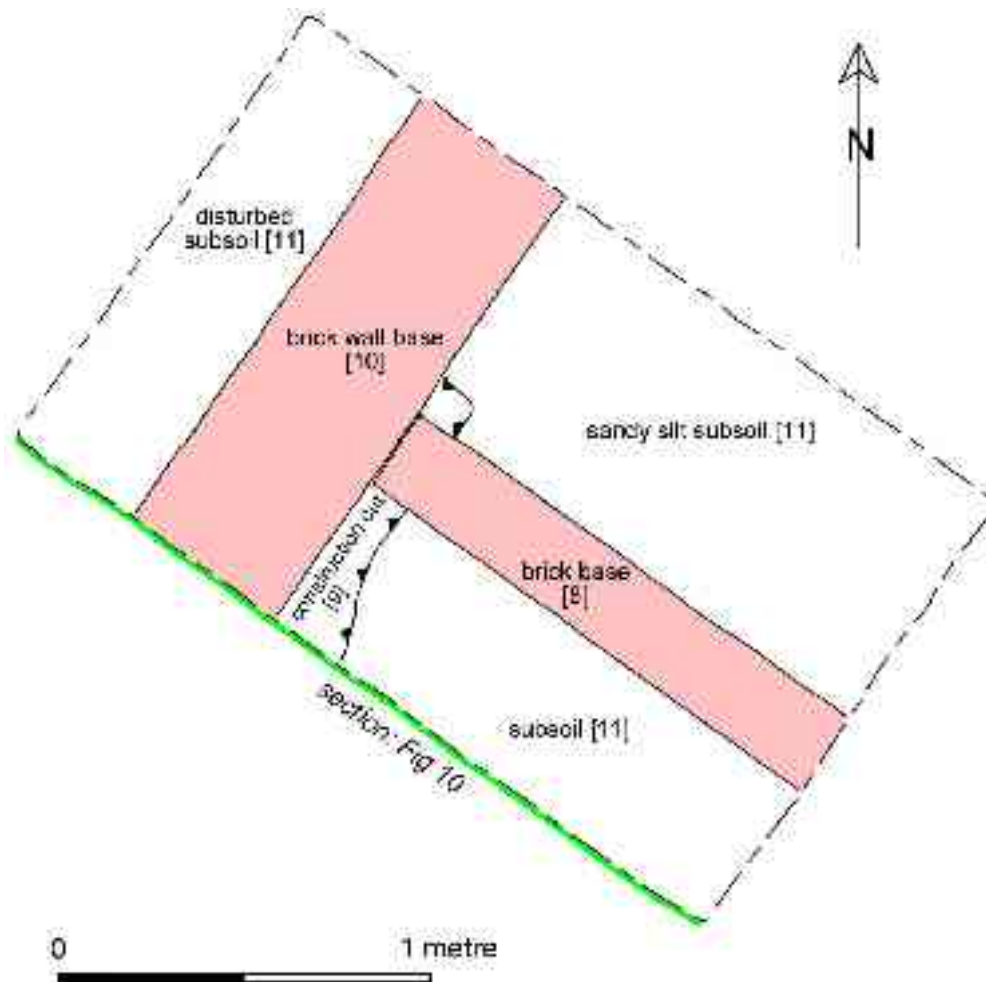


Fig 6 Plan of Test Pit 1 showing the principal wall base [10] and internal footing [8]

These brick bases relate to a small building that was probably constructed sometime between 1800 and 1840, and is identified by the Tithe Apportionment of 1847 as a chapel (*cf.* 3.2.4 & Fig 3 above). Subsequent records, in particular the Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1866-68 (Fig 4), define this more precisely as an Evangelization Society Mission Room.

The Test Pit can be located quite accurately over the 1860s OS plan (Fig 7 overleaf), and this establishes that the brick base [10] formed part of the rear wall of the Mission Room. The much less substantial line of brickwork [8] is not shown but lay within the structure and was presumably the base for an internal wall. The overall dimensions of the building as shown on the OS plan can be estimated at just over 6m by 7m.



Fig 7 Extract from the OS map of 1866-68, showing the position of Test Pit 1 across the rear wall of the Mission Room



Fig 8 Test Pit 1: overview of brick bases [8] & [10] looking northwest (1.0m scale)

Removal of [8] and excavation of the subsoil deposit [11] exposed the full depth of the southeast face of wall base [10]. This survived to five or six courses in height and included a slightly (*c* 60mm) stepped base that directly overlay the surface of the natural sandy silt [7]. The brickwork was laid in English bond – as apparent from the figure below – and was secured with a fairly hard coarse lime and sand mortar with sharp flint aggregate.

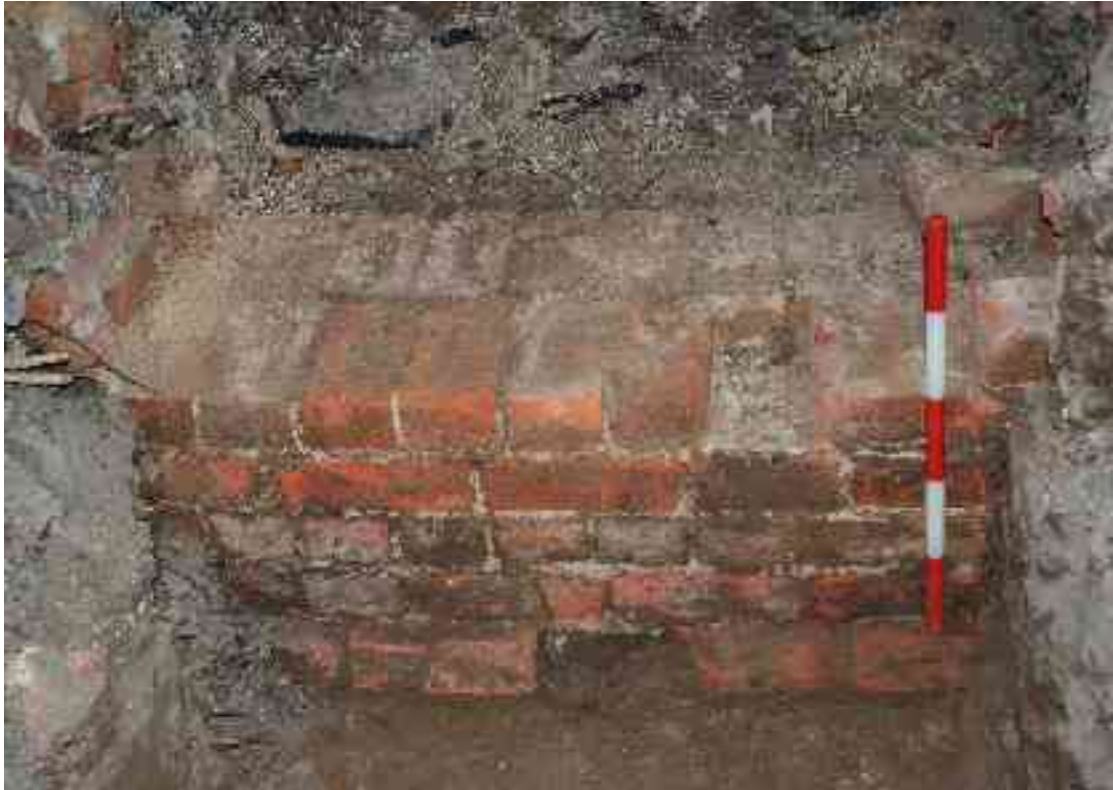


Fig 9 View of the southeast face and base of brick wall [10], after removal of the internal footing [8] and adjacent deposit [11] (*0.5m scale*)

**6.3.3** Brick samples from [8] and [10] were taken and subsequently examined off-site. All these bricks were very similar in size and fabric, and were identified as a local orange sandy version of fabric type 3032, with a relatively high micaceous content (*pers comm* John Brown, Gifford). The bricks included a shallow (<10mm) frog and were probably stock rather than machine made: typical dimensions were 221 x 105 x 64mm to 223 x 107 x 66mm. The date of manufacture is most likely to have been in the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century.



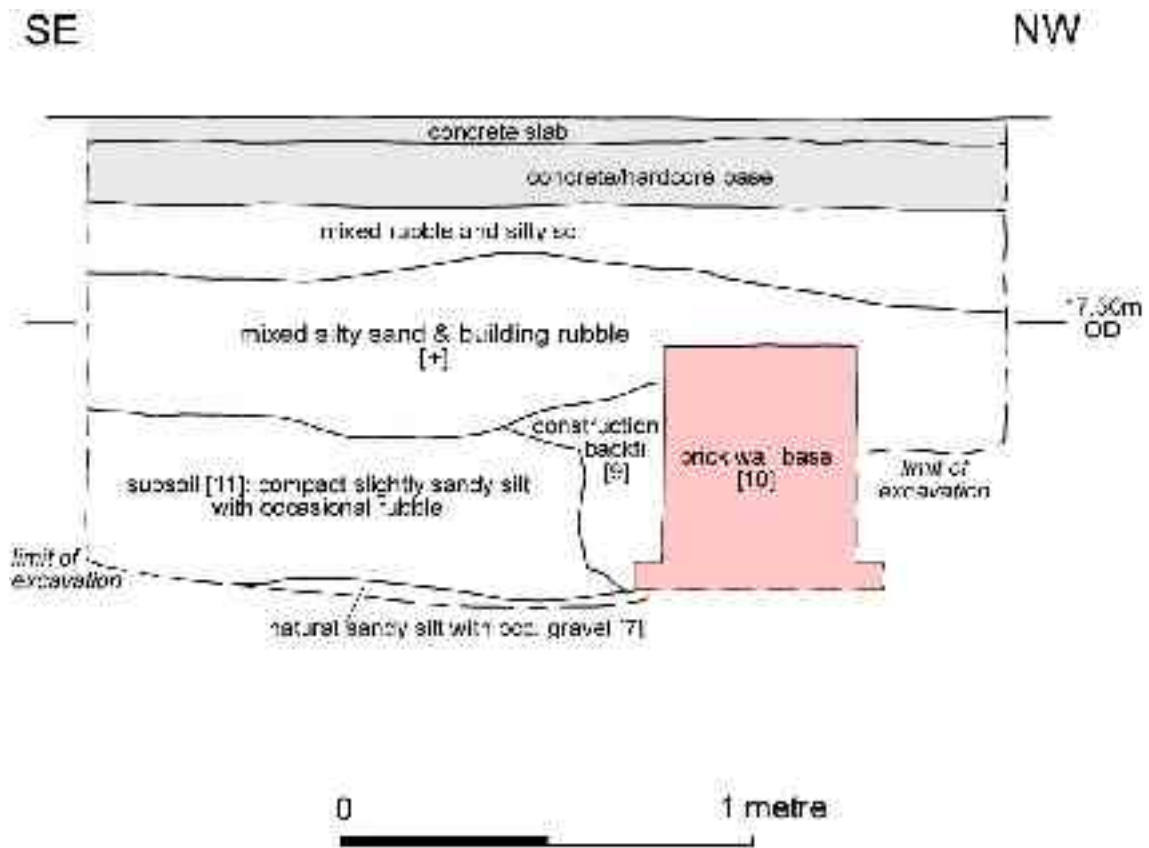


Fig 10 Southwest section of Test Pit 1 after full excavation (located on Figure 6)



Fig 11 Test Pit 1: view looking west, showing both wall bases & the adjacent section

## 6.4 Trench 1

6.4.1 Trench 1 was dug by machine on a northwest to southeast alignment and measured some 8.3m by 1.8m in plan. The trench was typically about 0.8m to 0.9m deep.

The natural silty clay deposit [7] was exposed throughout the trench, although cut by modern services in the central and southern areas. In places it was also overlaid by a truncated subsoil deposit [3] – a firm sandy silt with occasional gravel and inclusions of ceramic building material.

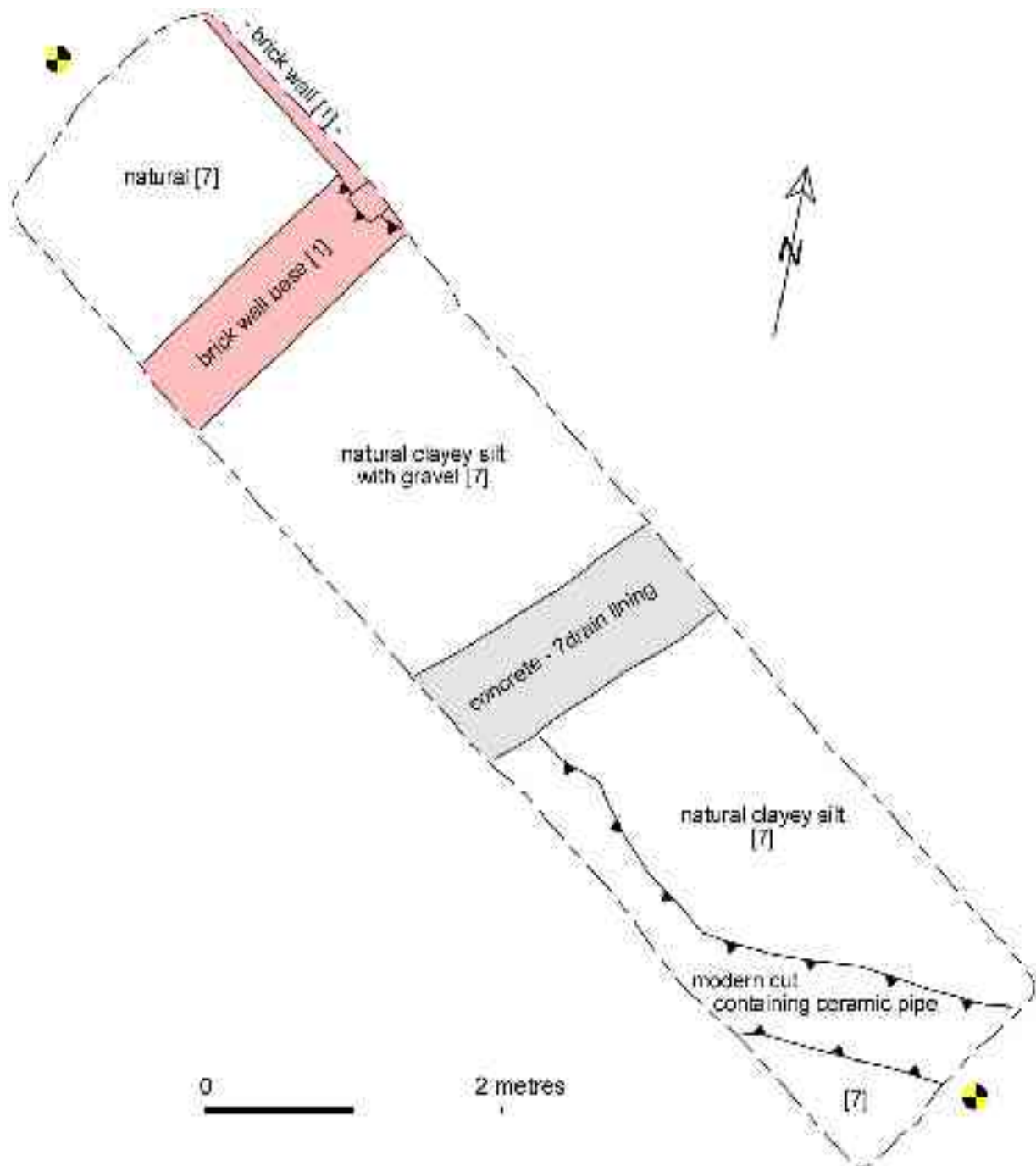


Fig 12 Plan of Trench 1, in particular showing the later 19<sup>th</sup> century extension to the Mission Room represented by the adjoining brick wall bases [1]

In general Trench 1 was heavily truncated by recent activity, probably associated with development of the site as a garage in the 1960s, although there were no features specifically associated with this activity (unlike Trenches 2 & 3).



Fig 13 Trench 1: general view looking southeast towards Tooting High Street, with brick wall base [1] in the foreground (*1.0m scale*)



Fig 14 Oblique view of the northeast section of Trench 1 (*1.0m scale*)



**6.4.2** The main feature of Trench 1 was a substantial brick wall foundation [1]. In fact this comprised two adjoining sections of brickwork, one crossing near the northwestern end of the trench and the other running at 90° along the northeastern edge of excavation (Fig 12). At its base (cutting just into the natural deposit) the wall was up to 580mm thick, although stepped in to about 450mm at a higher level. At its uppermost level the brickwork was simply truncated, and no associated floor levels or make-up survived.

This structure can be clearly related to the extension of the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century Mission Room, as discussed in relation to Test Pit 1 (*cf.* 6.3.2 above). Comparison of the First and Second Editions of the OS 25-inch map (*c.* 1868-95, Figures 7 & 5) indicate that the frontage of the building was extended by nearly 4m – and in its later form the corner of the building closely coincides with the two walls recorded in Trench 1:

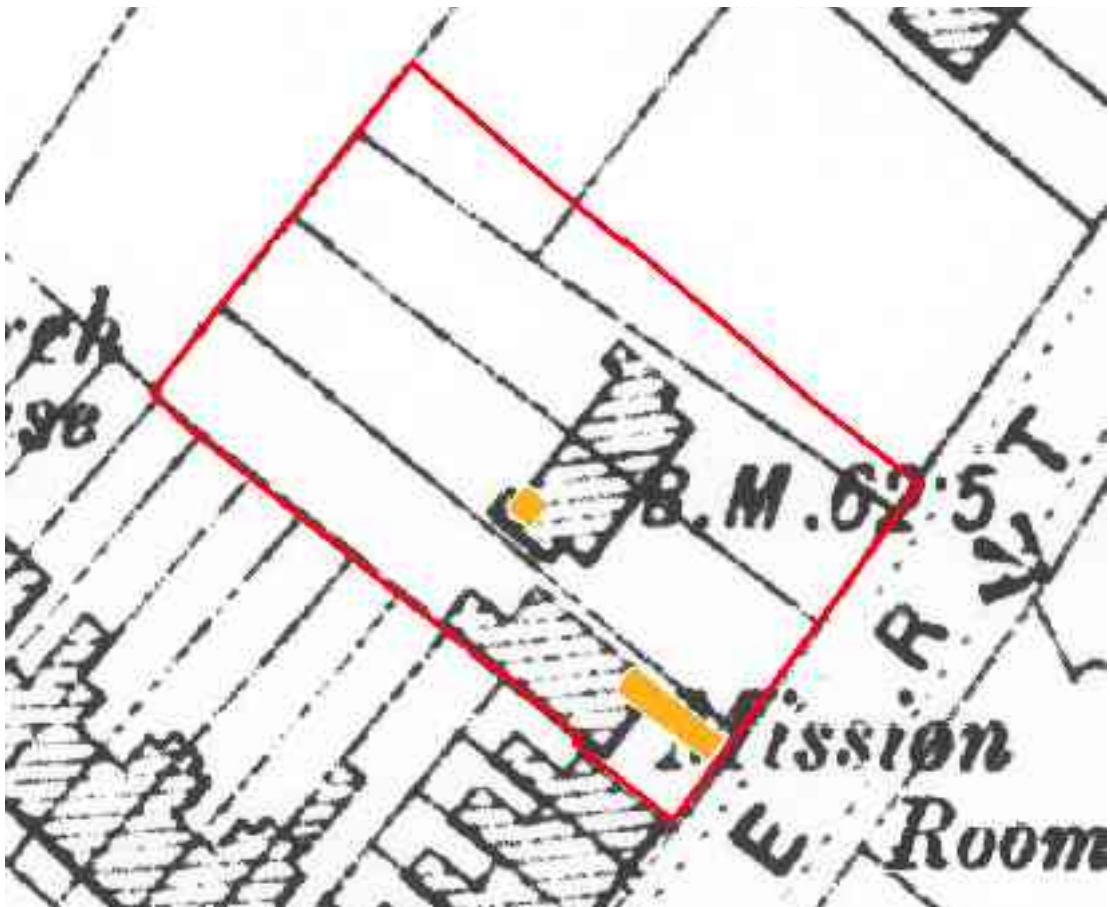


Fig 15 Extract from the OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 25-inch map of *c.* 1895, showing the positions of Trench 1 in relation to the extended Mission Room and also Test Pit 2 at the rear of the adjacent semi-detached house



Fig 16 Trench 1: view looking southwest along the principal line of wall base [1]



Fig 17 Trench 1: detail of the adjoining wall bases [1], which formed the front (eastern) corner of the extended Mission Room (*1.0m scale*)

## 6.5 Test Pit 2

6.5.1 Test Pit 2 was located immediately to the rear of the redundant furnishing store (Fig 5), and measured some 1.80m square in plan.

The uppermost level of the pit consisted of hard surfacing over a concrete base, and thence make-up/levelling deposits associated with adjacent standing building. The southeastern side of the pit was occupied by a continuous concrete strip footing for the same construction, which probably dates to the 1980s.

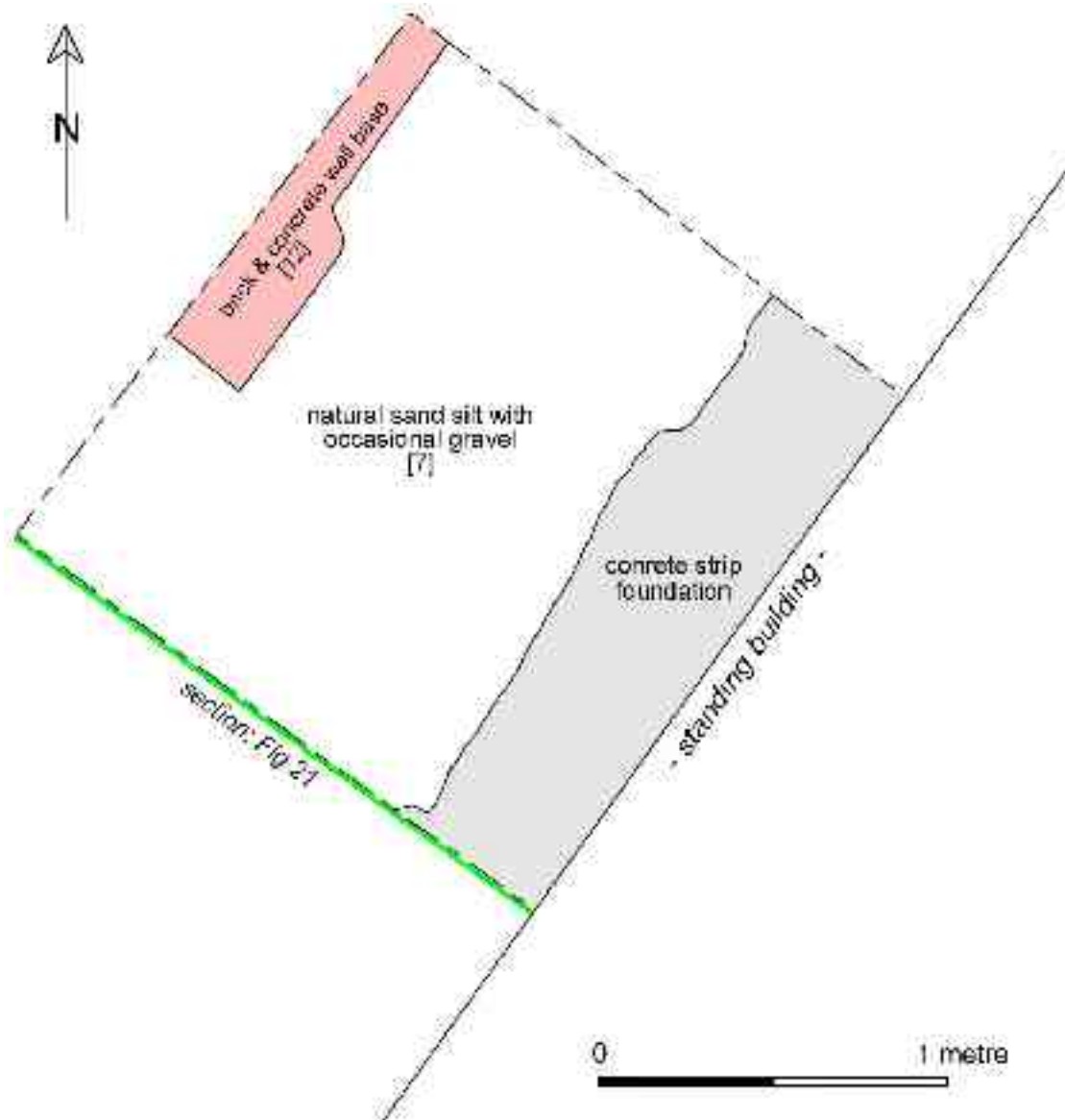


Fig 18 Plan of Test Pit 2. The wall footing [12] formed part of the rear wall of the former semi-detached house as shown on Figure 15 above

6.5.2 The northwestern side of the pit revealed a section of earlier brick foundation, over a shallow concrete base. This can be related to the rear wall of the one of the two semi-detached houses that previously stood on the site, as is illustrated by the overlay of the pit onto the 1890s OS plan (Fig 15 above). The house was built shortly before this



date, and was demolished at some point after 1966 – probably immediately prior to construction of the present furnishing store.



Fig 19 General view of Test Pit 2 looking east



Fig 20 Test pit 2: view looking north, with the brick and concrete wall base [12] to the left (*0.5m scale*)

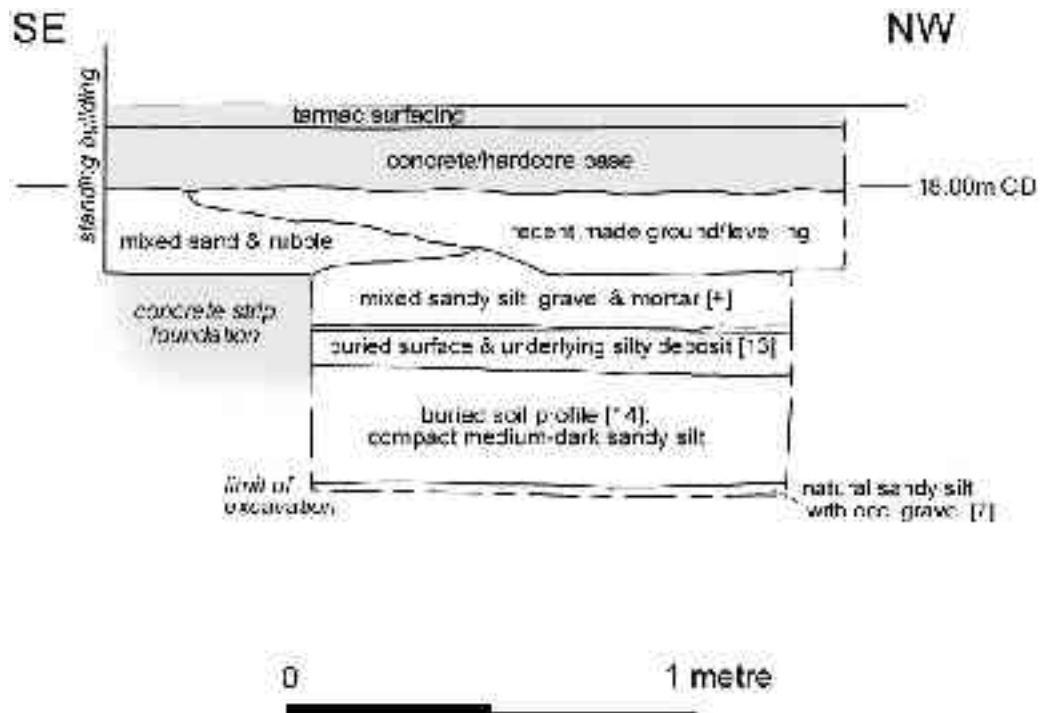


Fig 21 Southwest section of Test Pit 2 after full excavation (located on Figure 18)



Fig 22 Detailed view of deposits shown in the above figure (0.5m scale)

## 6.6 Trench 2

**6.6.1** Trench 2 was excavated by machine on a southwest to northeast alignment in the centre of the forecourt. The trench measured *c* 4.8m by 1.8m in plan and was between about 0.8m and 1.2m deep.

**6.6.2** Material removed from the trench below the present surfacing consisted mainly of compacted rubble, although there were also several concrete cased metal pipes. These may well have been fuel lines to the pumps within the garage/filling station that previously occupied the site (*c* 1960s-1980s).

The trench was cleared by machine to a continuous although uneven concrete surface (context [4]). This presumably represents the top of a series of fuel tanks, again related to use of this area as a garage. No attempt was made to remove the concrete, which was already at or below the level of the natural ground surface as recorded elsewhere.

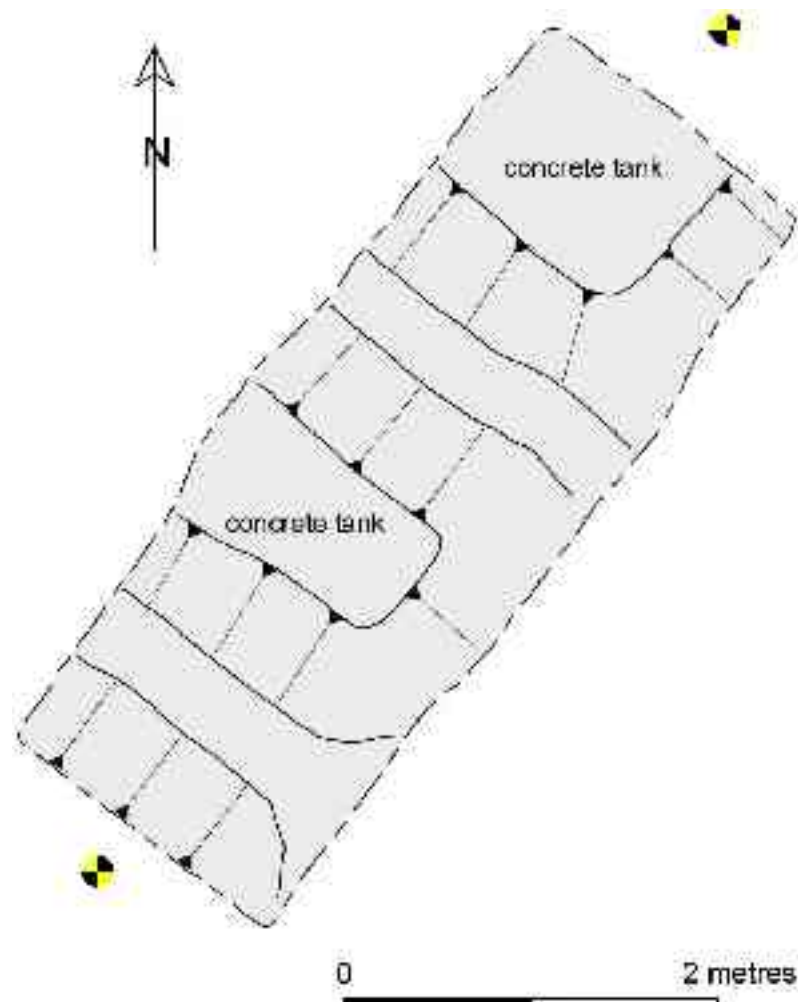


Fig 23 Plan of Trench 2 showing the tops of the concrete tanks





Fig 24 Trench 2: general view looking south towards Tooting High Street



Fig 25 Trench 2: view looking north (*1m scale*)



Fig 26 Trench 2: general view looking southwest



Fig 27 View of rubble deposits overlying the surface of the concrete tanks in the southeast section of Trench 2 (*1m scale*)



## 6.7 Trench 3

6.7.1 Trench 3 was dug on a northwest to southeast alignment and was some 8m in length. The width of the trench was reduced to the north in response to potentially live services, from about 2.2m down to 1.6m, whilst the depth averaged about 0.85m to 1.10m – where not obstructed by concrete.

6.7.2 The natural silty clay deposit [7] was exposed throughout most of the trench, although cut by concrete bases in the central and northern areas. Elsewhere deposits were also heavily truncated by modern activity, although there were remnants of a subsoil deposit [6] in the southern section – a dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional building material inclusions.

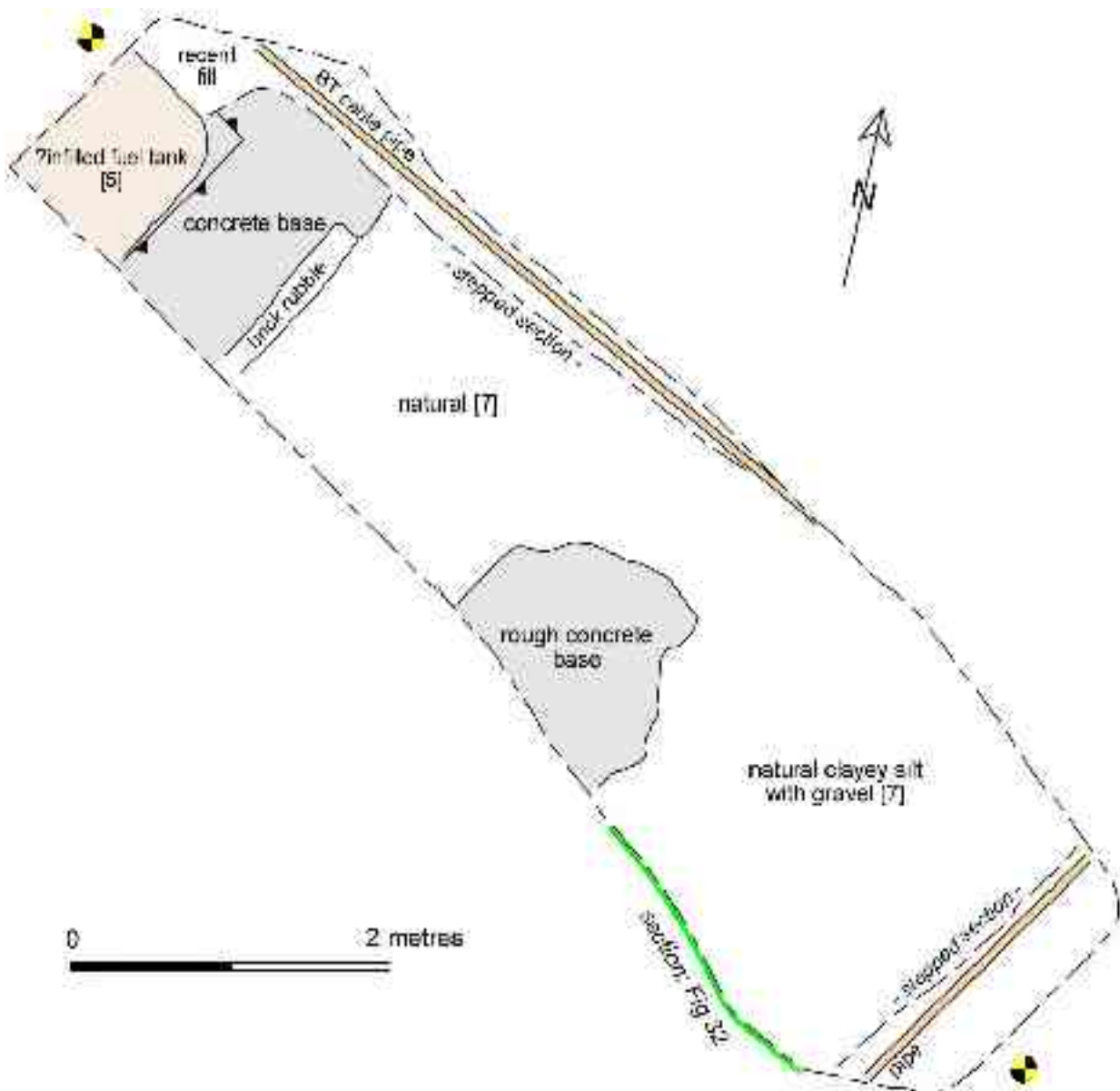


Fig 28 Plan of Trench 3 showing modern intrusions, including a probable fuel tank [5] at the northwestern end

**6.7.3** The concrete construction at the northern end of the trench [5] is probably part of a further fuel tank – and was certainly on a line with those already seen in Trench 2. However, in this case the uppermost level was also overlain by a relatively soft sandy mortar (seen at bottom right in the picture below), which may represent infill/ capping after disuse of the tanks.

A further roughly-shaped concrete block was located about midway along the southern side of the trench, and appears to have formed a foundation of some type.



Fig 29 View of Trench 3 looking southeast towards the road (*1.0m scale*)



Fig 30 Trench 3: general view looking south towards Tooting High Street



Fig 31 Trench 3: further view of the southwest section, looking west (*1.0m scale*)



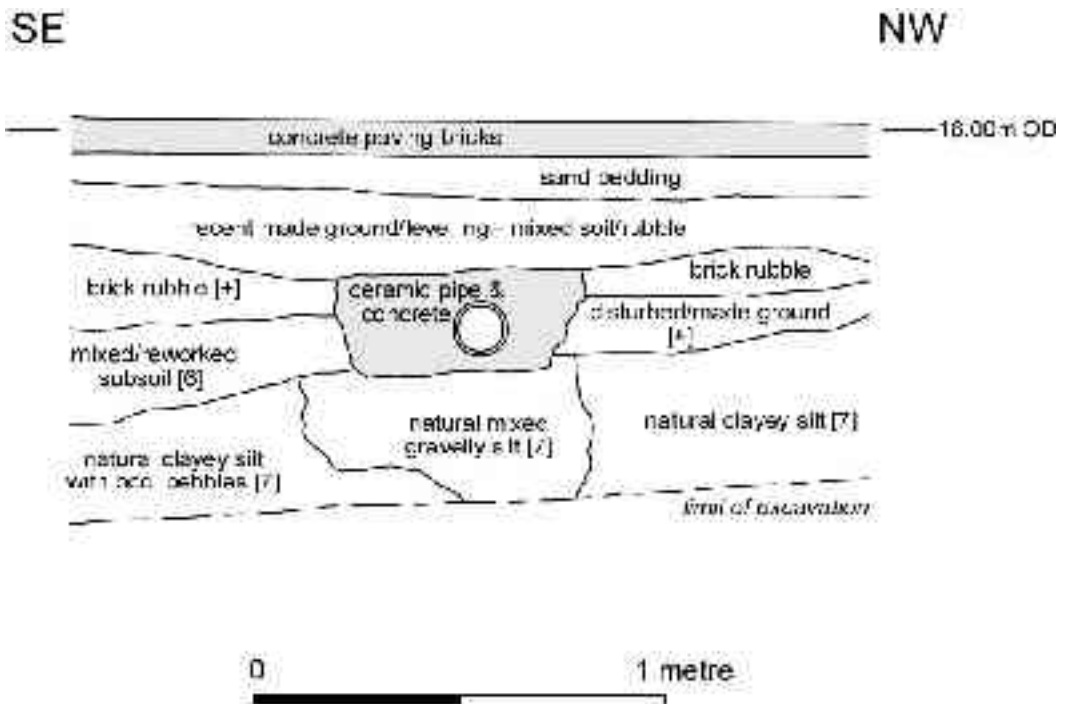


Fig 32 Trench 3: the southern part of the southwest section (located on Figure 28)



Fig 33 View of deposits shown in the above figure (1.0m scale)

## 6.8 Test Pit 3

6.8.1 Test Pit 3 was located roughly centrally at the rear of the site (*cf.* Fig 5), and overall measured some 1.75m by 1.8m in plan.

6.8.2 The overall depth of the pit was about 1.15m, but much of its area was obstructed by modern concrete – a probable drain to the southeast running parallel with the adjacent building, and a base some 650mm deep to the north. Moreover, the western corner of the test pit (nearest the rear site boundary) was cut away by a modern feature backfilled with a mixture of loose silty sand and metal debris.

6.8.3 A relatively small surviving area of subsoil [15] was excavated, although without producing any finds. This in turn exposed the underlying natural sandy silt/gravel [7].



Fig 34 Plan of Test Pit 3, showing the substantial obstruction caused by *in situ* concrete features



Fig 35 Test Pit 3: general view looking approximately west (1.0m scale)

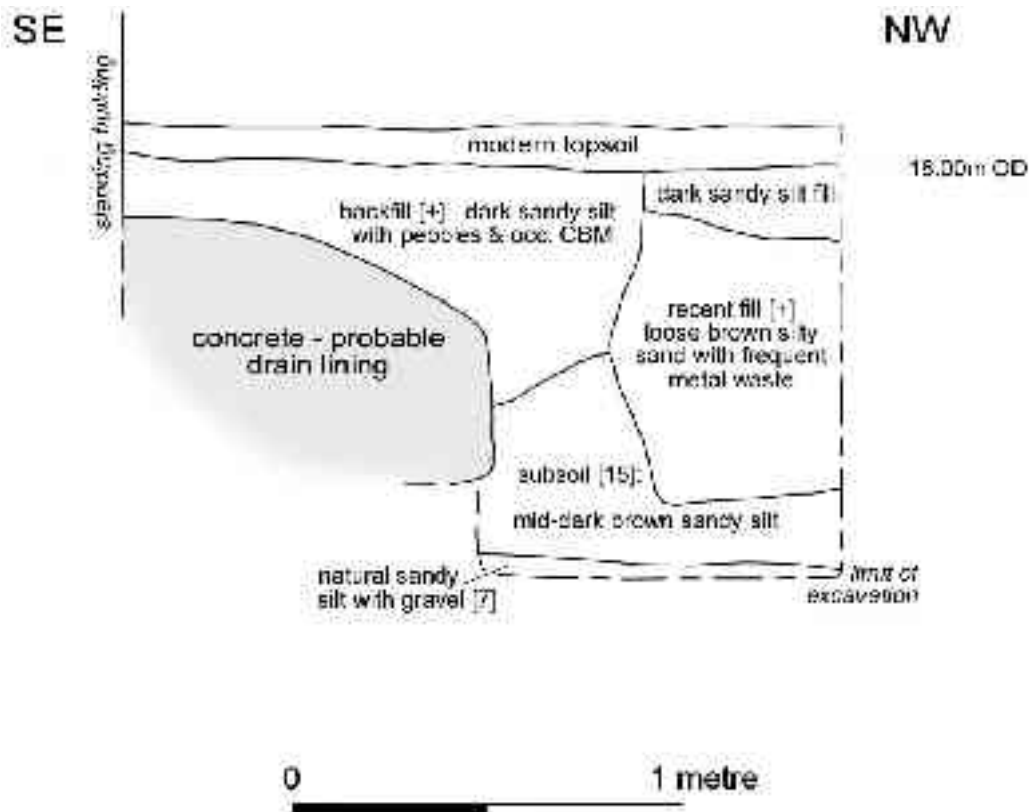


Fig 36 The southwest section of Test Pit 3 after excavation (located on Figure 34)





Fig 37 Test Pit 3: view of the deposits shown in Figure 36 (*1.0m scale*)

## 6.9 Test Pit 4

6.9.1 Test Pit 4 was located in the northern (rear) corner of the site, and measured some 1.70m by 1.85m in plan.

6.9.2 The uppermost level of the pit consisted of a solid concrete slab some 100mm to 150mm thick, overlying make-up deposits associated with adjacent standing building – these both infilling the construction cut for the wall and building up the adjacent land surface by up to 0.25m. The southeastern side of the pit was also occupied at a lower level by a continuous concrete strip footing for the building, some 250mm wide.

6.9.3 A thin (<25mm) layer of sandy gravel [16] down represented a probable construction surface for the standing building, which is believed to date to the early 1950s. This deposit was at a depth of *c* 0.35m to 0.40m, and overlay a buried soil profile, predominantly a firm sandy silt with occasional flints and pebbles (also [16] & [17]). These deposits sealed the natural sandy silt [7].

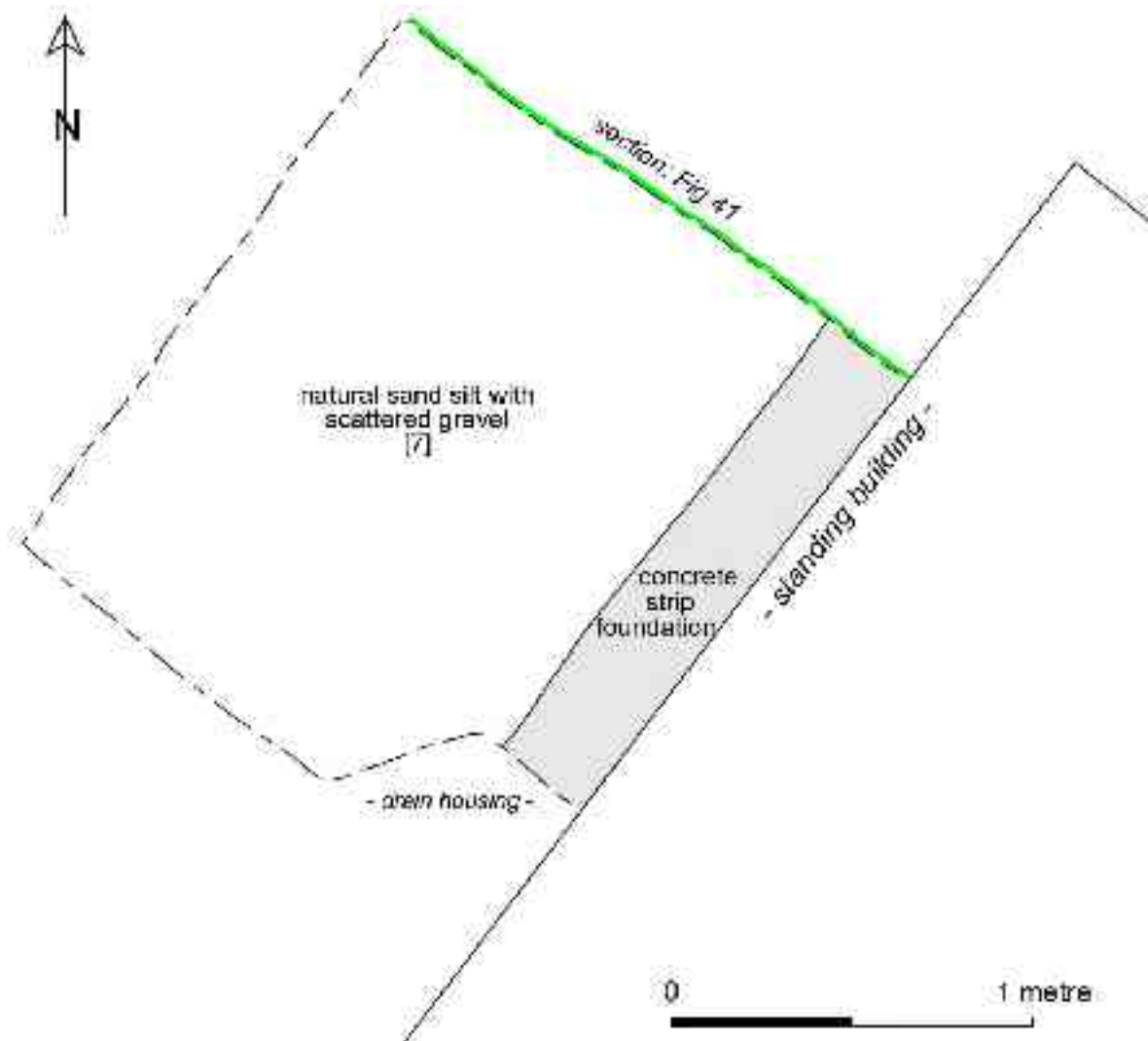


Fig 38 Plan of Test Pit 4





Fig 39 Test Pit 4: locating view with Tooting High Street at top left



Fig 40 View of Test Pit 4 looking south towards the standing building (*1.0m scale*)

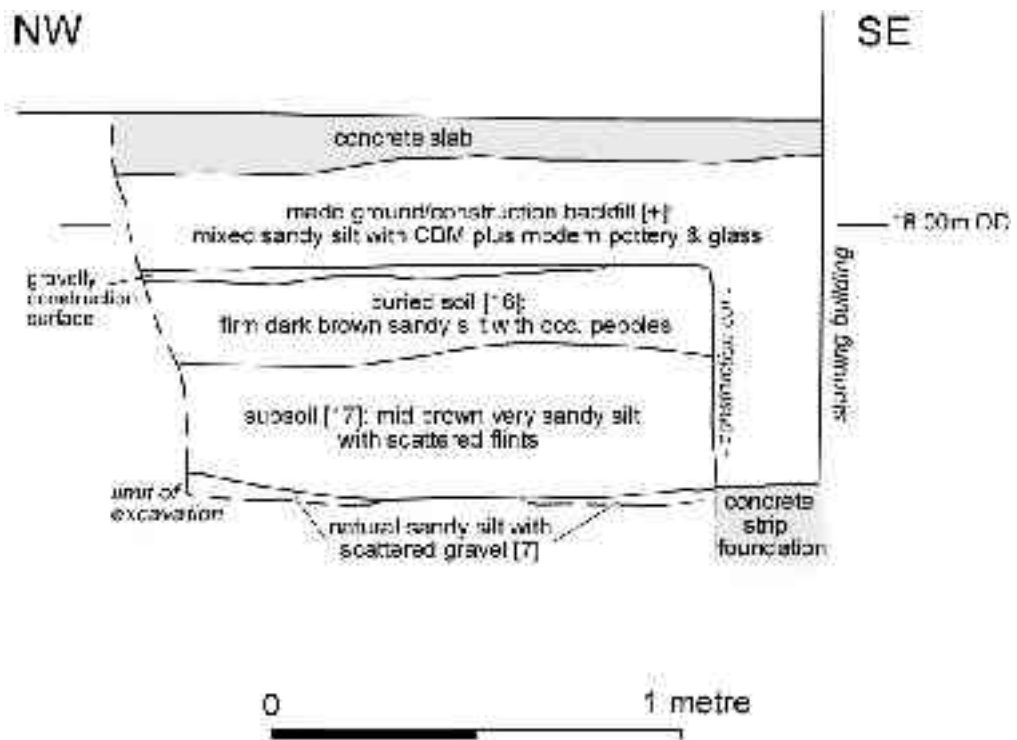


Fig 41 Northeast section of Test Pit 4 after full excavation (located on Figure 38)



Fig 42 View of the fully excavated Pit and deposits shown in the above figure (1.0m scale)

## 7. Assessment of the results of the evaluation

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

- *Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, and what is the stratigraphic context and date range?*

There was no evidence for any prehistoric activity on the site, nor were any residual artefacts recovered.

- *Is there any evidence for Roman activity? In particular, can potential features or deposits (eg, ditches or metalled surfaces) be related to the projected line of Stane Street?*

There was no evidence of any Roman activity or land use, and nothing potentially related to the historic road line.

- *Is there any evidence for Saxon or medieval activity, and can the nature of this be defined – for example, agriculture or settlement?*

There was no evidence of any Saxon or medieval activity or land use. Although close to the road later maps indicate that the site area lay well away from any contemporary settlement.

- *What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, and does this add anything to what is known from cartographic sources relating to the development of the area?*

There was no evidence for any post-medieval activity on the site prior to the recorded early 19<sup>th</sup> century development. Buried soil horizons were recorded prior to development in several areas, but these deposits did not produce any significant finds or other artefacts.

- *What remains or features survive from the 19<sup>th</sup> century development of the site, in particular the Mission Room that had been constructed by the mid 1840s near the southern corner?*

Part of the original rear wall of the Mission Room was exposed in Test Pit 1, forming a well-constructed brick foundation some 450mm thick. Brick samples from the wall have been dated to the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although there were no surviving floor levels there was an adjoining line of brickwork to the south, probably the base for a contemporary internal wall.

A later 19<sup>th</sup> century extension or rebuilding of the Mission Room was found in the northern part of Trench 1, with two adjoining sections of brick wall base of similar thickness to the original. All of these structures can be clearly related to the Ordnance Survey 25-inch plans of 1866-68 and c 1895. With the aid of these it is possible to reconstruct the building plan, originally measuring just over 6m by 7m and subsequently extended some 4m to the front (and also in a more limited area to the rear).

Some further evidence for later 19<sup>th</sup> century development was came from Test Pit 2, with a small section of brick and concrete base from the rear wall of one of the two semi-detached houses built on the site. This too can be clearly related to the OS record, although the structure was much less substantial than those which formed parts of the Mission Hall.

All the other building features and remains that were recorded were of quite recent date, relating to the former garage/filling station (probably constructed in the 1960s) and to the existing structures (approximately early 1950s and 1980s).

## **8. Summary and conclusions**

- 8.1** The archaeological evaluation did not reveal any significant remains, although it did produce evidence for early and later 19<sup>th</sup> century development that can be clearly related to the cartographic record.

The record of the Mission Hall is also of some local historical interest: the structure dates to the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century and was the first building on the site, and must have played a distinct role as the area changed from countryside to a London suburb. In the 1840s it is described by the Tithe Apportionment as a chapel, and at least subsequently was run by the Evangelization Society (which itself is understood to date from 1864).

However, the other structural evidence provided by the evaluation was of no significance – except by demonstrating the existence of substantial concrete fuel tanks under parts of the present forecourt. 20<sup>th</sup> century development had caused extensive disturbance and truncation in the front (southeastern) part of the site, and not merely limited to the areas of the underground tanks.

Elsewhere there was less truncation, and the centre and rear of the site revealed buried soil profiles sealed by construction deposits in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, these areas did not produce earlier finds or features, and there was no evidence for any activity – either *in situ* or residual – prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The natural sandy or clayey silt was exposed throughout the area of investigation, except where cut away by deep modern intrusions.

- 8.2** The evaluation was somewhat constrained by present site conditions – both buildings and usage. However, the front area was quite extensively evaluated and produced no evidence of any sort relating to the putative Roman Road. Elsewhere investigations were more limited, but gave no indication of any earlier remains – despite the existence of potentially undisturbed soil horizons. Thus there is no indication that further archaeological work will yield significant results.



## 9. Bibliography

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## Appendix I. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: compass1-67676

### Project details

Project name	158-162 Tooting High Street
Short description of the project	<p>Three evaluation trenches and four test pits were dug on the western side of Tooting High Street, close to the projected line of Stane Street. No significant remains were found, although there was evidence for 19<sup>th</sup> century development that can be closely related to the cartographic record. Moreover, the exposed foundations included part of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century chapel or Mission Hall – a small building originally about 6 by 7m in plan, though later extended. The structure is of some local historical interest and must have played a distinct role as the area changed from countryside to a London suburb. The remains included an original external brick base some 450mm thick and some 6 courses high, a shallow internal footing of the same date, and two adjoining walls that formed part of the later 19<sup>th</sup> century frontage.</p> <p>Other development evidence was limited to later 19<sup>th</sup> century housing and construction of a filling station – including substantial underground fuel tanks – in the 1960s. Elsewhere 20<sup>th</sup> century development had caused extensive disturbance and truncation, although the centre and rear of the site retained buried soil profiles sealed by recent construction deposits. However, there was no evidence for any activity – either <i>in situ</i> or residual – prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The natural sandy or clayey silt was exposed throughout the area of investigation, except where cut away by deep modern intrusions.</p>
Project dates	Start: 18-09-2009 End: 05-11-2009
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	THQ09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NIL None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON WANDSWORTH TOOTING 158-162 Tooting High Street
Postcode	SW17 0RT
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 27230 71135 51.4244188835 -0.169830776906 51 25 27 N 000 10 11 W Point

### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Archive ID	THQ09
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Archive ID	THQ09
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Map','Plan','Report','Section'

### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	158-162 Tooting High Street, SW17, LB of Wandsworth. An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Potter, G
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street SE1
Description	In-house spiral bound report, 40 pages

## **Appendix II. *London Archaeologist* publication summary**

158-162 Tooting High Street, SW17 0RT. TQ 27230 71135. CA. Evaluation. 18-09-2009 to 05-11-2009. UK Asset Management Ltd. THQ09

### **Summary**

3 evaluation trenches and 4 test pits were dug on the western side of Tooting High Street, close to the projected line of Stane Street. No significant remains were found, though the evidence for 19<sup>th</sup> century development that can be related to the cartographic record. Exposed foundations included part of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century chapel or Mission Hall – a small building originally about 6 by 7m in plan, later extended. The remains included an original external brick base some 450mm thick, a shallow internal footing of the same date, and two adjoining walls that formed part of the later 19<sup>th</sup> century frontage.

Other evidence was limited to later 19<sup>th</sup> century housing and construction of a filling station – including underground fuel tanks – in the 1960s. Elsewhere 20<sup>th</sup> century development had caused extensive disturbance and truncation, and although parts of the site retained earlier buried soil profiles there was no evidence for any pre-19<sup>th</sup> century activity. The natural sandy or clayey silt (Head) was exposed throughout the area of investigation, except where cut away by deep modern intrusions.