

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Former Royal Mail Sorting Office, London Road, Twickenham,  
London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames**

**NGR: 5154 1279  
(TQ 154 279)**

**Planning Ref: 12/3650/FUL**

**Project No: 5742  
LAARC Site Code: TWL 13**

**ASE Report No. 2013088  
OASIS id: archaeol6-147623**

**By Ian Hogg**

**With a contribution by Trista Clifford**

**Illustrations by Rob Cole, John Cook and Justin Russell**

**April 2013**

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**June 2014**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Former Royal Mail Sorting Office, London Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames in advance of the redevelopment of the site.*

*Eleven archaeological evaluation trenches, measuring between 30.00m and 20.00m x 2.00m were excavated on the site. Two trenches were shortened and slightly moved due to spatial constraints.*

*Natural Kempton Park gravels were observed throughout the western half of the site, where the natural geology was overlain by modern made ground deposits. In the eastern portion of the site, alluvial clays overlay the gravels. The alluvium was cut by one possibly later prehistoric feature and overlain by structural remains likely to be associated with later use of a brewery which occupied the site between the 17th and early 20th centuries. The latest masonry consisted of a granite cobbled surface which may have been laid at the end of the life of the brewery or formed part of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Council Depot building constructed on the site.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development of the Former Royal Mail Sorting Office, London Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 5154 1279 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 British Geological Survey Sheet 270 (South London: BGS 1994) shows that the site lies in an area of Kempton Park Terrace Gravels. Geotechnical investigations undertaken on the site recorded between 0.9m and 2.5m of made ground across the site. Beneath the made ground the investigations recorded alluvium between 0.2m and 1.10m across the majority of the study site. Within parts of the site, the alluvium had been removed, and the made ground directly overlay sands and gravels. A borehole towards the centre of the site contained a peat deposit, recorded at a depth of between 4.4m and 5.10m; this was in turn overlain by a sequence of fine sands and silty clays.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames for the demolition of the current buildings, followed by the construction of a mixed use development (Ref.: 12/3650/FUL). A condition of planning consent is that an archaeological investigation be undertaken in advance of the development to safeguard any archaeological remains that may be present.

1.3.2 A Desk Based Assessment of the archaeological potential of the site was prepared by CgMs Consulting Ltd (CgMs 2012a). A Written Scheme of Investigation for the current evaluation was also prepared (CGMS 2012b) in accordance with the planning condition and approved by Diane Abrams of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) on behalf of the local planning authority. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document at with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009) GLAAS (GLAAS 2009) and English Heritage (English Heritage 2008).

## **1.4 Research Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The broad aim of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI, was to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment. This was to be achieved by investigating an adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains were potentially threatened.

1.4.2 The evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

1.4.3 The specific aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric activity at the site, particularly for the Late Iron Age.
- To establish the presence or otherwise of Roman activity at the site.
- To establish the presence or otherwise of post medieval and modern activity, particularly the brewery known to have lain within the eastern part of the site
- To establish the environmental context of prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post medieval and modern activity, including provision for geoarchaeological sampling/analysis of appropriate deposits at the site.
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

1.4.4 In addition, the excavation of test pits within the trench locations along the east-west transect were designed to:

- Retrieve stratigraphic data to aid understanding of site formation.
- Assess palaeoenvironmental potential within each stratigraphic layer.

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 21st and 28th March 2013, and between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014. The work was carried out by Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist), Ian Hogg (Archaeologist), Catherine Douglas (Archaeologist), Liz Chambers (Assistant Archaeologist) and Steve Price (Assistant Archaeologist). It was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following archaeological background is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment for the site (CgMs 2012a). For a full account of the archaeological background of the site and area, the reader is referred to that document. The most pertinent points are summarised here with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 Geotechnical investigations have demonstrated the presence of peat within the eastern part of the site, which has been identified as indicative of a palaeochannel which has potential for the recovery of environmental remains.
- 2.3 Archaeological potential for the Iron Age and Roman periods has been identified due to the presence of remains of agricultural and settlement activity identified in two separate archaeological investigations within 400m of the site.
- 2.4 Finally, documentary and historic mapping evidence shows that a brewery was established on the site in the early 17th century by Thomas Cole. The Cole and Co brewery remained in operation until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (operating as Brandon's Brewery from 1892). The land was subsequently purchased by the Borough Council and the 1934/35 Ordnance Survey shows substantial changes to the site layout, with brewery buildings on the eastern part of the site replaced by a large Council Depot building.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Due to on site constraints, seven of the proposed 12 trenches were excavated in March 2013 (Trenches 1-4 and Trenches 10-12) and 5 trenches were excavated in the most recent phase of evaluation (Trenches 5-9; Fig. 2).
- 3.2 The trenches were mechanically excavated under the supervision of ASE staff. Trench 1 was moved south and shortened to 22.50m in length due to spatial constraints; Trench 4 was also shortened, and the orientation of Trench 9 was altered because of spatial constraints.
- 3.3 Due to the depth of excavation in Trenches 4-7 and 9, one metre steps were excavated on either side of these trenches to comply with health and safety regulations.
- 3.4 Geoarchaeological test pits were excavated within five trenches; Trenches 2 and 11 were selected rather than 2 and 12 (as originally specified in the WSI) due to spatial constraints and overlying archaeology. Trenches 5, 7 and 9 were also selected. This work was carried out by Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) and the results will be included in an updated version of this report to be submitted at a later date.
- 3.5 All trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying natural substrate, or to the top of archaeological deposits or masonry, whichever was higher.
- 3.6 All deposits and masonry were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only. Where trenches were too deep to enter (Trenches 7 and 9) photographs and measurements were taken from the top of the trench.
- 3.7 Trenches were located and tied in to the Ordnance Survey using a GPS unit.
- 3.8 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.9 ASE informed the LAARC that the fieldwork would taking place .The site code TWL13 has been assigned to the archive which is quantified below in Table 1. The archive will be deposited on completion of all stages of fieldwork and reporting.

Number of Contexts	80
No. of files/paper record	2 files
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	1
Photographs	99 digital photographs
Bulk finds	None
Registered finds	None
Environmental flots/residue	None

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the west of the site, it was aligned south-west to north-east; the trench was moved to the south and was shortened due to spatial constraints; it measured 22.50m x 2.00m. The trench was 0.82m deep at the north-eastern end and 0.92m deep at the south-western end, the trench was excavated to the top of the natural sandy clay.

4.1.2 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 1 was natural mid orangey brown sandy clay, [1/005], observed at heights of between 7.48m and 7.54m AOD. The natural deposit was sealed by loose, orange gravelly sand made ground, [1/004]. This deposit was only observed at the south-western end of the trench and was 0.13m thick. The gravelly made ground was overlain by further made ground deposit, [1/003], consisting of crushed concrete and brick in a brown silty matrix, this deposit was between 0.28m and 0.33m thick. This deposit was overlain by another similar made ground deposit, [1/002], consisting of rubble in an orange sand matrix; it was between 0.23m and 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by the tarmac car park surface, [1/001], which was 0.15m thick.

4.1.3 No archaeological features or masonry were identified within Trench 1.

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Layer	Tarmac	0.15
1/002	Layer	Made ground	0.23-0.25
1/003	Layer	Made ground	0.28-0.33
1/004	Layer	Made ground	0.13
1/005	Layer	Kempton Park gravels	0.10-0.11

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

### 4.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the south-west of the site, it was aligned east to west; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 0.86m deep at the eastern end and 0.96m deep at the western end. Excavation stopped at the top of the Kempton Park gravels. A geoarchaeological test-pit was excavated at the east end of the trench. The specialist geoarchaeological report was not available at the time of writing but will be included in an updated version of the report to be submitted at a later date.

4.2.2 Natural Kempton Park gravels, [2/007], were observed throughout the trench between 7.56m and 7.69m AOD. The gravels were cut by a possible small palaeochannel or depression, [2/005]. This feature ran from north to south; it was 2.00m long, 5.47m wide and 0.40m deep with gentle sloping sides and a flat base. The fill, [2/006], consisted of mid greenish grey silty clay. The feature was overlain by a deposit of dark bluish grey silty clay, [2/004], which contained hydrocarbon contamination; this deposit was only recorded in the

western end of the trench and was between 0.06m and 0.23m thick.

- 4.2.3 The contaminated deposit was sealed by a deposit of mixed rubbly silt made ground, [2/003]; this deposit was between 0.36m and 0.61m thick. The made ground was overlain by [2/002], a deposit of orange gravel Type 1, 0.09m thick, in turn overlain by a tarmac surface [2/002] between 0.17m and 0.21m thick.

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
2/001	Layer	Tarmac	0.17-0.21
2/002	Layer	Made ground	0.09
2/003	Layer	Made ground	0.36-0.61
2/004	Layer	Made ground	0.06-0.23
2/005	Fill	Palaeochannel	0.40
2/006	Cut	Fill of palaeochannel	0.40
2/007	Layer	Kempton Park gravels	0.08-0.17

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

### 4.3 Trench 3

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 was located in the west of the site, it was aligned north-west to south-east; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 1.39m deep at the north-western end and 0.67m deep at the south-eastern end. Excavation stopped at the top of the Kempton Park gravels.

- 4.3.2 Natural Kempton Park gravels [3/004] were observed between 6.94m and 7.35m AOD. The gravels were overlain by [3/003], a deposit of bluish grey silty clay made ground between 0.21m and 0.28m thick. The clay deposit was sealed by a mixed made ground deposit, [3/002], consisting of concrete and crushed rubble between 0.17m and 0.66m thick. The made ground deposits were sealed by a tarmac surface, [3/001], which was between 0.10m and 0.18m thick.

- 4.3.3 No archaeology was observed in this trench.

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Layer	Tarmac	0.14-0.18
3/002	Layer	Made ground	0.17-0.66
3/003	Layer	Made ground	0.21-0.28
3/004	Layer	Kempton Park gravels	0.15-0.27

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 Trench 4 was located in the west of the site; it was aligned north to south and measured 20.00m x 2.00m. The trench was shortened due to spatial constraints. The trench was 1.20 deep at the northern end and 0.65m deep at the western end. Excavation stopped at the top of the Kempton Park gravels.

4.4.2 Natural Kempton Park gravels, [4/006], were observed throughout the trench between 7.22m and 7.84m AOD. The gravels were overlain by [4/005], a dark bluish grey silty clay made ground between 0.12m and 0.23m thick. Two more made ground deposits, [4/004] and [4/003], overlay the clay. Made ground, [4/004], consisted of crushed concrete between 0.26m and 0.36m thick; it was overlain by orange gravel, [4/003], between 0.07m and 0.08m thick. The made ground was sealed by a tarmac surface, [4/002], 0.14m thick and a reinforced concrete surface, [4/001], between 0.31m and 0.41m thick.

4.4.3 No archaeology was observed in Trench 4.

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
4/001	Layer	Concrete	0.31-0.41
4/002	Layer	Tarmac	0.14
4/003	Layer	Made ground	0.07-0.08
4/004	Layer	Made ground	0.26-0.36
4/005	Layer	Made ground	0.12-0.23
4/006	Layer	Kempton Park gravels	0.05-0.15

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 Trench 5 was located in the centre of the site. It was aligned northeast to southwest and measured 30.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 1.50m deep. Excavation stopped at the top of the Kempton Park gravels

4.5.2 Natural Kempton Park gravels, [5/003] were observed throughout the trench at 7.17m AOD. The gravels were overlain by [5/002], a mid-brownish orange weathered clay alluvium between 0.20m and 0.30m thick. The alluvium was overlain by [5/001], a mixed made ground deposit between 1.43m and 1.50m thick.

4.5.3 No archaeology was observed in Trench 5.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
5/001	Layer	Made ground	1.43-1.50
5/002	Layer	Alluvium	0.20-0.30
5/003	Layer	Kempton Park Gravels	0.05-0.10

Table 6: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

#### **4.6 Trench 6**

4.6.1 Trench 6 was located in the centre of the site. It was aligned northwest to southeast and measured 30.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 1.75m deep at the southeast end, and 2.05m deep at the northwest end. Excavation stopped at the top of the Kempton Park gravels.

4.5.2 Natural Kempton Park gravels, [6/003] were observed throughout the trench at 6.98m AOD. The gravels were overlain by [6/002], a mid-brownish orange weathered clay alluvium between 0.40m and 0.50m thick. The alluvium was overlain by [5/001], a mixed made ground deposit between 1.30m and 1.60m thick.

4.5.3 No archaeology was observed in Trench 6.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
6/001	Layer	Made ground	1.30-1.60
6/002	Layer	Alluvium	0.40-0.50
6/003	Layer	Kempton Park Gravels	0.05

Table 7: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

**4.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 4)**

- 4.7.1 Trench 7 was located towards the east of the site. It was aligned northeast to southwest and measured 30.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 0.60m deep at the northeast end, and 1.30m deep at the southwest end. Excavation stopped at the top of the Kempton Park gravels in the southwest end of the trench, and on top of alluvial clay in the centre of the trench. In northeast end of the trench, excavation stopped on top of a concrete slab.
- 4.7.2 Natural Kempton Park gravels, [7/003] were observed in the southwest end of the trench at 7.11m AOD. The gravels were overlain by [7/002], a blue and brown mottled clay alluvium, which was encountered at the same level in the centre of the trench. The alluvium measured a thickness of 0.30m to 0.35m.
- 4.7.3 A red brick soakaway [7/005] truncated the alluvium in the centre of the trench at c. 6.40m AOD. The soakaway measured a diameter of 1.00m and was formed of unfrogged red bricks. The depth of the feature was not established as excavation ceased at this level.
- 4.7.4 The alluvium was overlain by a northeast-southwest red brick wall foundation [7/004] which relates to one of The Cole and Co brewery buildings shown on the 1846 Tithe map (Fig.9). It appears to be the southeastern wall of the building. The wall truncated the alluvium, and the concrete slab forming the base of the building could also be seen joining the wall on the north. On the 1907 Goad Map (Fig.11) the building is described as a bottled beer store.

A large square of concrete above the concrete slab may relate to the stairwell (also shown on the 1907 Goad Map) although the location does not quite fit with the Historic map, so it may be a different structural remain.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
7/001	Layer	Made ground	0.60-1.30
7/002	Layer	Alluvium	0.30-0.35
7/003	Layer	Kempton Park Gravels	0.05
7/004	Masonry	Red brick wall	-
7/005	Masonry	Soakaway	-

Table 8: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 5)

4.8.1 Natural sand [8/005] of the Kempton Park Gravel Formation was encountered at c. 7.50m OD and overlain by stiff blue alluvium [8/006]. Cutting the alluvium was shallow negative feature, [8/004]. The feature, possibly a ditch, was not fully exposed but was at least 1.45m in width and 0.24m in depth with concave sides and filled with stiff dark grey clay [8/003] with frequent manganese flecking. It contained a small amount of undiagnostic (c. 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC) prehistoric pottery and fire-cracked flint. A bulk sample was taken from [8/003].

4.8.2 The feature was sealed by up to 1m of mottled blue and brown alluvium [8/002] and 0.5m of modern made ground [8/001].

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
8/001	Deposit	Made ground	0.5
8/002	Deposit	Alluvium	0.9-1
8/003	Deposit	Feature fill	0.24
8/004	Cut	Feature	0.24
8/005	Deposit	Sand	+0.2m
8/006	Deposit	Alluvium	-

Table 9: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 6)

4.9.1 Trench 9 was located in the northeast corner of the site. It was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 25.00m x 2.00m. Excavation initially stopped on top of a concrete slab [9/002], 0.50m below surface level along the full length of the trench, and a T-shaped extension was added on the southeast side of the trench measuring 10.00m x 2.00m, in order to establish the extent of the concrete. The trench was then excavated to a depth of 2.10m. Only small areas of natural deposits were observed in this trench.

4.9.2 A small area of sand [0/004] was observed towards the northeast end of the trench at 7.87m AOD. This appeared to be natural geology, which extended across an area measuring 2.00m x 2.00m. In the centre of the trench the sand was overlain by a layer of alluvium [9/003] comprised of blue-brown clay, and in the northeast end of the trench it was heavily truncated by modern concrete building foundations and made ground [9/001].

4.9.3 Three red brick walls [9/005], [7/006] and [9/007] were identified truncating the alluvium, all on a northwest/southeast alignment. The walls line up with the U-shaped brewery building on the 1846 Tithe map. All three walls appear to have been originally built as outer building walls. An extension was built on the west side of the building at some point between 1846 and 1863, joining up two previously separate buildings (Figs. 9 and 10). The gap in the middle of the U-shape building was built over between 1863 and 1907, in order to

create one big rectangular building. Two of the walls [9/005] and [9/006] then functioned as inner building walls separating the bottling area from the cider store. (Fig.11)

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
9/001	Layer	Made ground	0.50-0.60
9/002	Layer	Alluvium	0.10-0.35
9/003	Layer	Natural sand	-
9/004	Masonry	Red brick wall	-
9/005	Masonry	Red brick wall	-
9/006	Masonry	Red brick wall	-

Table 10: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.10 Trench 10 (Fig. 7)

4.10.1 Trench 10 was located in the east of the site, it was aligned east to west; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 1.32m deep at the eastern end and 1.29m deep at the western end. Natural deposits were not observed in this trench.

4.10.2 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 10 was a dark greenish grey silty clay, [10/008], which contained occasional CBM fragments. This deposit was observed in the west of the trench and was at least 0.10m thick. The clay deposit was overlain by a red brick wall foundation [10/007] which was aligned northwest to southeast and consisted of four courses of unfrogged, handmade red bricks, measuring 230mm x 100mm x 60mm in size, bonded with a sandy lime mortar; the foundation was stepped and built in English bond. The foundation measured 1.46m in length, 0.42m in width and 0.26m in height; it was truncated by a modern served to the north.

4.10.3 A second wall foundation, [10/004], was located to the east of [10/007]; this foundation, constructed from frogged red bricks measuring 225mm x 105mm x 62mm, was aligned north/south. The wall was bonded with sandy lime mortar and constructed in English bond; the wall measured 1.82m in length, 0.36m in width and 0.06m in height; again it was truncated by modern services.

4.10.4 The wall foundations were overlain by successive deposits of made ground: [10/006] and [10/005] respectively. Made ground [10/006] consisted of greenish grey clay with frequent rubble and concrete inclusions; it was 0.23m thick and was overlain by mottled greyish green clayey sand made ground [10/005] which was 0.18m thick. These made ground deposits were overlain another deposit of made ground, [10/003], consisting of crushed CBM and concrete between 0.47m and 0.82m thick. The made ground was sealed by a levelling layer of Type 1 gravel [10/002] between 0.21m and 0.26m thick and a tarmac surface [10/001] between 0.19m and 0.24m thick.



Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
10/001	Layer	Tarmac	0.19-0.24
10/002	Layer	Levelling deposit	0.21-0.26
10/003	Layer	Made ground	0.47-0.82
10/004	Wall	Foundation	0.06
10/005	Layer	Made ground	0.18
10/006	Layer	Made ground	0.23
10/007	Wall	Foundation	0.26
10/008	Layer	Made ground	0.10

Table 11: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.11 Trench 11 (Fig. 8)

4.11.1 Trench 11 was located in the east of the site, it was aligned south-east to north-west; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 0.56m deep at the south-eastern end and 2.20m deep at the north-western end. Excavation stopped at the alluvial clays in the centre and north-west of the trench, elsewhere it ceased at the paved surfaces. A geoarchaeological test pit was excavated through the alluvium in the centre of the trench to the natural Kempton Park gravels.

4.11.2 Natural Kempton Park gravels, [11/012], were observed within the geoarchaeological test pit at a height of 5.89m AOD. The gravels were overlain by [11/011], a bluish grey silty clay alluvium observed in the centre of the trench; this deposit was 0.96m thick. The alluvium was overlain by a similar alluvial clay, [11/009], which contained hydrocarbon contamination, as well as CBM fragments; it was 0.32m thick.

4.11.3 At the north-western end of the trench, the earliest deposit observed was [11/010], a mid grey alluvial clay which was 0.51m thick. This deposit was cut by a wall foundation trench, [11/003], running on a north-west to south-easterly alignment. The foundation trench was linear with vertical sides and a flat base; it measured 1.82m in length, 0.52m in width and was 0.45m deep. Within the trench, wall foundation [11/005] was constructed from frogged red bricks measuring 220mm x 105mm x 60mm, laid in English bond, no bonding material was observed; the foundation measured 1.01m in length, 0.30m in width and 0.13m in height. The foundation trench fill, [11/004], consisted of soft, mid greenish brown clay 0.45m thick. This foundation as well as the contaminated alluvium [11/009], were overlain by mid brownish grey clay made ground [11/008] with frequent CBM inclusions. This deposit was observed across the entire trench and was between 0.74m and 0.82m thick. A large cast iron vessel of probable 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date was retrieved from this deposit.

4.11.4 The made ground was overlain by two areas of cobbled surface, [11/001] and [11/002], which probably represent parts of the same floor. Cobbled surface [11/001] was constructed from square granite blocks measuring 110mm x 100mm x 120mm bonded with cement mortar; the floor measured 1.10m from

north to south and 0.75m from east to west. The cobbles had been covered by a by a layer of screed [11/014], presumably to provide a flat surface, this layer was 0.02m thick. Cobbled floor [11/002] was similar to [11/001] but was constructed from rectangular granite blocks measuring 200mm x 110mm x 140mm. These were set on edge and were bonded with cement mortar; the surface measured 2.70m in length and 2.30m in width.

4.11.5 Made ground [11/008] was also overlain by a concrete foundation, [11/013]. It was aligned north to south and curved eastwards at its southern limit; it measured 2.20m in length, 0.50m in width and was 1.10m high. The trench was sealed by [11/007], a layer of Type 1 gravel between 0.20m and 0.59m thick and [11/006], a tarmac surface between 0.20m and 0.38m thick.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
11/001	Layer	Cobbled surface	0.12
11/002	Layer	Cobbled surface	0.14
11/003	Cut	Foundation trench	0.45
11/004	Fill	Foundation Fill	0.45
11/005	Wall	Foundation	0.13
11/006	Layer	Tarmac	0.20-0.38
11/007	Layer	Type 1 gravel	0.20-0.59
11/008	Layer	Made ground	0.74-0.82
11/009	Layer	Made ground	0.42
11/010	Layer	Alluvial clay	0.51
11/011	Layer	Alluvial clay	0.96
11/012	Layer	Kempton Park gravels	0.25
11/013	Masonry	Concrete foundation	1.20
11/014	Layer	Screed	0.02

Table 12: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

#### **4.12 Trench 12 (Fig. 9)**

4.12.1 Trench 12 was located in the east of the site, it was aligned east to west; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 0.86m deep at the western end and 0.63m deep at the eastern end. The natural deposits were not observed in this trench.

4.12.2 The earliest features observed in Trench 12 were wall foundations [12/002], [12/003] and [12/008], observed at 7.92m, 7.90m and 7.53m AOD respectively. Foundations [12/002] and [12/003] ran perpendicular to one another and probably formed the corner of a building, however both were too truncated by services to prove this conclusively. Foundation [12/002] ran north-east to south-west and was constructed from unfrogged red bricks measuring 225mm in length, 105mm in width and 62mm in depth. The foundation was bonded with sandy lime mortar and set in stretcher bond; the foundation measured 3.50m in length, 0.37m in width and at least 0.07m in height. Foundation [12/003] ran north-west to south-east and was constructed from similar materials to [12/002]; it measured 1.80m in length, 0.46m in width and at least 0.06m in height. Foundation [12/008] was located at the western end of the trench; it was constructed from unfrogged red bricks measuring 220mm x 100mm x 60mm, laid in stretcher pattern, bonded with pale grey lime mortar. The foundation measured 3.50m in length, 0.48m in width and 0.06m in height and was aligned north to south.

4.12.3 Foundation [12/008] was overlain by two successive made ground deposits [12/014] and [12/013] respectively. Deposit [12/014] consisted of mid brown clay with frequent CBM inclusions; it was at least 0.10m in thickness. Made ground [12/013] consisted of crushed brick and stone and was between 0.24m and 0.40m thick. The made ground was sealed by a granite cobbled surface [12/004] and a series of associated blocks [12/005], [12/006] and [12/007]. The cobbled surface was constructed from granite blocks measuring 190mm x 100mm x 120mm. They were laid on edge and bonded with cement mortar. The floor measured 3.60m in length, 2.90m in width and 0.12m in thickness. The floor was abutted by three larger granite blocks. Block [12/005] measured 600mm in length, 440mm in width and 220mm in height. Block [12/007] was very similar and measured 960mm in length, 420mm in width and 220mm in height. These two blocks appear to have formed the eastern edge of the cobbled floor. Block [12/006] was set within the cobbled floor, presumably to strengthen that particular area; it measured 450mm x 400mm x 220mm. Portions of this floor has been covered by [12/012], a thin tarmac surface 0.03m thick.

4.12.4 A second area of cobbled floor, [12/001], was recorded at the eastern end of the trench. This floor was cambered with a drainage channel in its centre which ran southwest northeast, although the drain itself had been destroyed. The floor was again constructed from granite blocks which measured 200mm x 120mm x 120mm. Again the blocks were set on edge and bonded with cement mortar; the floor measured 3.50m in length, 3.00m in width and was 0.12m thick.

4.12.5 Both the wall foundations [12/002]/[12/003] and the cobbled surface [12/001] were overlain by a rubble made ground layer [12/011], which was 0.27m

thick; it was overlain by [12/010], a deposit of Type 1 gravel between 0.11m and 0.15m thick. This was sealed by tarmac surface [12/009], which was between 0.21m and 0.26m thick.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
12/001	Layer	Cobbled surface	0.12
12/002	Wall	Foundation	0.07
12/003	Wall	Foundation	0.06
12/004	Layer	Cobbled surface	0.12
12/005	Masonry	Granite block	0.22
12/006	Masonry	Granite block	0.22
12/007	Masonry	Granite block	0.22
12/008	Wall	Foundation	0.06
12/009	Layer	Tarmac	0.21-0.26
12/010	Layer	Type 1	0.11-0.15
12/011	Layer	Made ground	0.27
12/012	Layer	Tarmac	0.03
12/013	Layer	Made ground	0.24-0.40
12/014	Layer	Made ground	0.10m

Table 13: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

## **5.0 THE FINDS**

### **5.1 Prehistoric Finds** by Anna Doherty & Karine Le Hégarat

5.1.1 Four bodysherds of prehistoric flint-tempered pottery, weighing 10g were recovered from [8/003], the fill of feature [8/004]. All are probably from the same vessel although they do not cross-fit. The fabric contains common, moderately-sorted flint, mostly of 1-2mm set within a silty background matrix. Such fabrics are broadly typical of the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age although they are not closely datable within the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC.

5.1.2 Accompanying the pottery in fill [8/003], was a piece of fire-cracked flint weighing 20g. Although fire-cracked flint is not inherently datable, it is fairly typically found in later prehistoric deposits. The residue of bulk environmental sample <100>, also from [8/003], produced a sole flint blade weighing 2g, which displays partial direct retouch on the distal end. The modified piece is not chronologically diagnostic, but it is likely to be of a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.

### **5.2 The CBM** by Trista Clifford

5.2.1 Two brick samples were recovered from two separate contexts. All bricks are of MoL fabric 3032. Wall sample [7/04] consists of three brick fragments bonded with a thick layer of coarse flinty mortar (wt 3.57kg); wall sample [9/04] contains at least seven partial bricks with a similar mortar (wt >6kg). No complete brick is present; the most complete example measures 110mm wide, 67mm thick with an incomplete length of 160+mm. The bricks are unfroged, therefore a pre-1700 date is probable. However a small number of bricks are vitrified and may have been reused.

### **5.3 The Iron Object** by Trista Clifford

5.3.1 A large cast iron vessel or ornamental feature with a pedestal base was recovered from made ground, [11/008]. The base of the object measures 145 x 170mm and is oval in shape. The diameter of the upper part is 240mm. Since the upper part is incomplete, it is not clear whether the object is a circular vessel or an ornamental spherical object such as a large gatepost finial. It is probably 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

**6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

**6.1 The Environmental Samples** by Dawn Elise Mooney

6.1.1 During evaluation work at the site, a single bulk environmental sample was taken in order to recover environmental remains such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca, and to assist finds recovery. Sample <100> was taken from fill [8/003] of prehistoric ditch [8/004], and measured 40 litres in volume.

6.1.2 The sample was processed by flotation. The flot and residue were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively, and air dried. The dried residues were passed through graded sieves of 8mm, 4mm and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains. The dry flots and the wet sieved fractions were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded. Table 14 records the contents of the flot and residue.

6.1.3 Charred plant macrofossils were rare in the sample. A single fragment of charcoal >4mm was recovered from the residue, and a very small quantity of charcoal flecks was noted in the flot. The flot mostly comprised modern uncharred rootlets and small roots, along with a quantity of modern paper/plastic material. The residue also contained a small quantity of magnetised material, burnt flint, and a single flint blade (Doherty & Le Hégarat, this volume).

6.1.4 The environmental remains recorded in sample <100> have no potential to provide information regarding environment, agriculture or diet at the site. The presence of roots and other modern material in the flot suggests that this context is likely to be disturbed through bioturbation. Nonetheless, a program of sampling for environmental remains should continue to be employed in any future archaeological investigations at the site.

Table 14: Flot and residue quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume (litres)	Sub-Sample Volume (litres)	Flot						Residue		Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
					Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume scanned (ml)	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	
100	8/003	D	40	40	<2	10	10	99	0	*	*	<2	Mag. Mat. */ <2g - Flint */ 2g - FCF **/ 116g

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Natural and Geoarchaeological Deposits**

- 7.1.1 The Kempton Park gravels were observed across the western portion of the site. They appear to have undergone significant horizontal truncation as, in many areas, they were directly overlain by made ground of relatively recent origin.
- 7.1.2 A single small palaeochannel or depression was recorded in Trench 2. The eastern part of the site contained significant alluvial deposits overlying the gravels. The thickness of the alluvium could only be established in one area due to later archaeology and the number of services. No peat deposits were recorded within the trenches.
- 7.1.3 Geoarchaeological test-pits were excavated through the palaeochannel and the alluvium in Trenches 2, 5, 7, 9 and 11. The results of this specialist work were not available at the time of writing and will be included in an updated version of this report to be submitted at a later date.

### **6.2 Iron Age Activity**

- 6.2.1 A single, shallow feature was excavated in Trench 8. Although it was not fully exposed in plan, its profile and the straightness of the one exposed edge probably suggests that this was a ditch rather than a pit. The pottery from this feature was only very broadly datable to around the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC. An environmental sample taken from the fill of the ditch was found to contain modern material and so cannot be relied upon. Elsewhere fragmentary traces of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age field systems have been found in the wider vicinity of Twickenham (Cowie 2001, 248-250). Iron Age evidence has also been found very close to the site, including a probable votive hoard of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC *potin* coins from Eel Pie Island (ibid) and a pits, post-holes and ditches of possible Iron Age date from Amyand Park Road (MoLAS 1994).

### **6.3 Post-Medieval Remains**

- 6.3.1 Post medieval masonry uncovered in the eastern part of the site in Trenches 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 seems to belong to at least two successive phases of construction. The masonry probably relates to the later use of the Cole and Co/Brandon's brewery and perhaps to the construction of a modern Council Depot building. The brewery was established in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century but continued in use until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when it was replaced by the Depot.
- 6.3.2 The earliest depiction of buildings associated with the brewery is on the 1635 Isleworth Hundred map (Fig 10.). Here a group of buildings are shown in the approximate area of the site although the brewery appears to be labelled as a separate linear building or terrace of buildings on the opposite side of London Road.
- 6.3.3 The Rocque map of 1741-5 (Fig. 11) appears to show a larger number of buildings occupying the development area. Some of these could be the same

buildings depicted on the 1635 map; however both maps are schematic and difficult to locate precisely because of the lack of reference points which survive to present day. This possible change to the layout of the brewery may have resulted from a change of ownership in 1736 (Richard Meager pers. comm.).

- 6.3.4 A 'best-fit' attempt has been made to overlay the masonry from the current evaluation with the Tithe map of c.1846, the Ordnance Survey of 1863 and the Goad map of 1907 (Fig. 12-14). These three maps show an almost identical building plan suggesting that there was very little adaptation to the site over this c. 60 year period. Another schematic map attributed to 'Mr Gittin's pupil' (not reproduced here) from 1849 also shows a similar arrangement.
- 6.3.5 Two sets of wall foundations, [10/004] and [12/008], were aligned north-south, although they were constructed using different bonding patterns and almost certainly represent parts of different buildings. Wall [12/008] was positioned in the same area as the eastern side of one of the larger brewery buildings depicted on the mid-18<sup>th</sup>-early19<sup>th</sup> maps but there is no obvious correlation between [10/004] and the mapped buildings.
- 6.3.6 The remainder of the walls were on a slightly different alignment. The corner of a structure represented by walls [12/002] and [12/003] does not correspond directly to the mapped buildings. However, it is clear that the two walls are similarly aligned to buildings shown in the southeast corner of the brewery complex. This may therefore represent another small building which was constructed at the same time and demolished before the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.3.5 Walls [10/007] and [11/005] were oriented on a similar northwest southeast alignment to the corner of the building uncovered in Trench 12. Again these have no obvious correlation with the later historic maps. Wall [11/005] appears to have been replaced by a building which stood on a different axis (north-south) and wall [10/007] was in an area depicted as an open exterior space.
- 6.3.6 No direct stratigraphic relationships could be established between the north south walls and any of the northwest southeast aligned structures. Some buildings on both orientations were in use at the time of the 1846 Tithe map and the excavated evidence did not certainly point to one orientation being an earlier phase of construction. However, none of the northwest southeast aligned structures uncovered by the evaluation can be located on the maps. Furthermore the building represented by wall [11/005] appears to have been replaced by a large north south orientated building of which wall [12/008] is a part.
- 6.3.7 A stratigraphic relationship was established between the walls and the cobbled granite surfaces recorded in Trenches 11 and 12. The surfaces were laid on made ground which overlay both north south wall [12/008] and northeast southwest wall [11/005]. The cobbles appear to lay in what was an external space during the lifetime of the brewery, and could represent a yard surface. However, the stratigraphic relationships seem to indicate that it was



laid after some of the buildings, which stood in 1907, were demolished.

- 6.3.8 This suggests that the granite cobbles are either a very late addition to the brewery or that they relate to the subsequent 20<sup>th</sup> century use of the site. At this time the surfaces would have lain inside a large Council Depot building and could perhaps have been part of an internal warehouse-like space. The addition of granite blocks to this floor may suggest that it was adapted to a new use so it is possible that it originated as part of the brewery and was incorporated into the floor of the new building.

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**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	TWL 13					
Identification Name and Address	Former Royal Mail Sorting Office, London Road, Twickenham					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 5154 1279					
Geology	Kempton Park Gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5742					
Type of Fieldwork	<b>Eval.</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	<b>Deep Urban</b>	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 21-03-13 to 28-03-13	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CGMS Consulting					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg and Catherine Douglas					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	<b>PM</b>	Other		

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Former Royal Mail Sorting Office, London Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames in advance of the redevelopment of the site.

Seven archaeological evaluation trenches, measuring between 30.00m and 20.00m x 2.00m were excavated on the site. Two trenches were shortened and slightly moved due to spatial constraints.

Natural Kempton Park gravels were observed throughout the western half of the site, where the natural geology was overlain by modern made ground deposits. In the eastern portion of the site, alluvial clays overlay the gravels. The alluvium was cut by one possibly later prehistoric feature and overlain by structural remains likely to be associated with later use of a brewery which occupied the site between the 17th and early 20th centuries. The latest masonry consisted of a granite cobbled surface which may have been laid at the end of the life of the brewery or formed part of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Council Depot building constructed on the site.

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-147623****Project details**

Project name	Former Royal Mail Sorting Office, London Road, Twickenham
Short description of the project	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Former Royal Mail Sorting Office, London Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames in advance of the redevelopment of the site.</p> <p>Seven archaeological evaluation trenches, measuring between 30.00m and 20.00m x 2.00m were excavated on the site. Two trenches were shortened and slightly moved due to spatial constraints.</p> <p>Natural Kempton Park gravels were observed throughout the western half of the site, where the natural geology was overlain by modern made ground deposits. In the eastern portion of the site, alluvial clays overlay the gravels. The alluvium was cut by one possibly later prehistoric feature and overlain by structural remains likely to be associated with later use of a brewery which occupied the site between the 17th and early 20th centuries. The latest masonry consisted of a granite cobbled surface which may have been laid at the end of the life of the brewery or formed part of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Council Depot building constructed on the site.</p>
Project dates	Start: 21-03-2013 End: 27-03-2013
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	5742 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	TWL 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval
Monument type	COBBLED SURFACES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CAST IRON VESSEL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"

Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

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**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM Former Royal Mail Sorting Office, London Road
Postcode	TW1 3QS
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 1588 7360 51 0 51 26 56 N 000 19 55 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.00m Max: 8.00m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

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**Project archives**

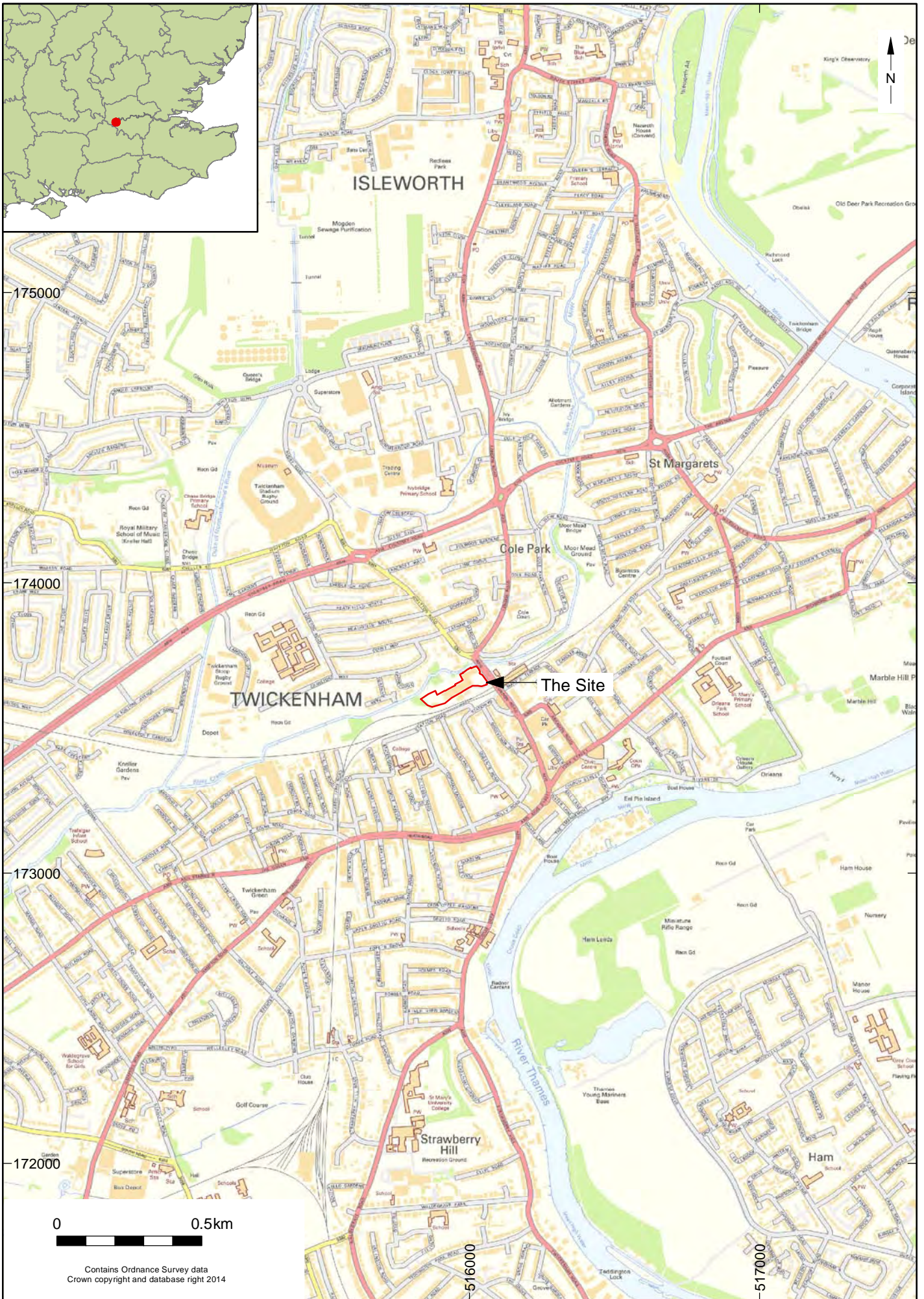
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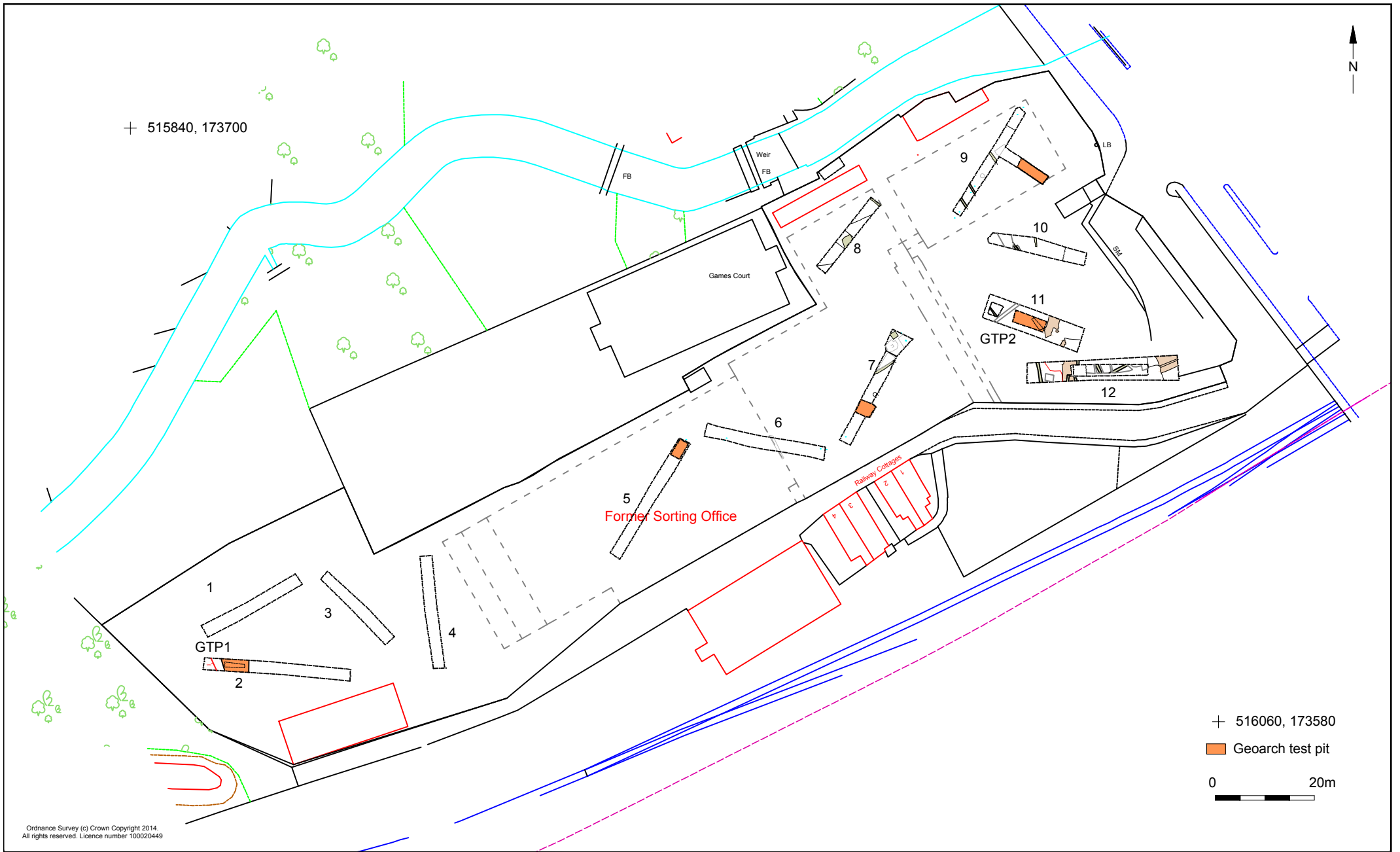
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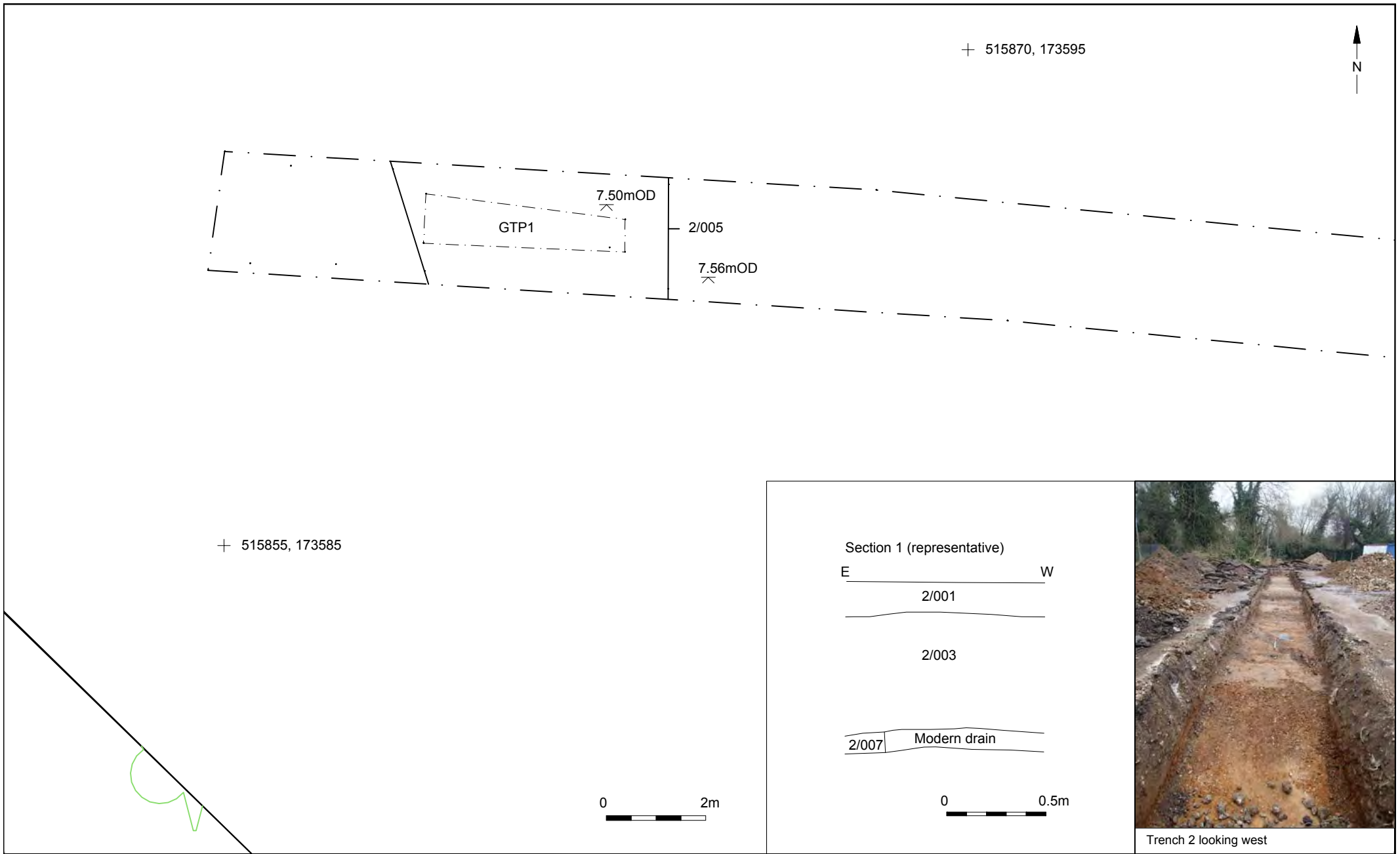
© Archaeology South-East		Twickenham Sorting Office, Richmond		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5742	June 2014	Site location		
Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: RHC			



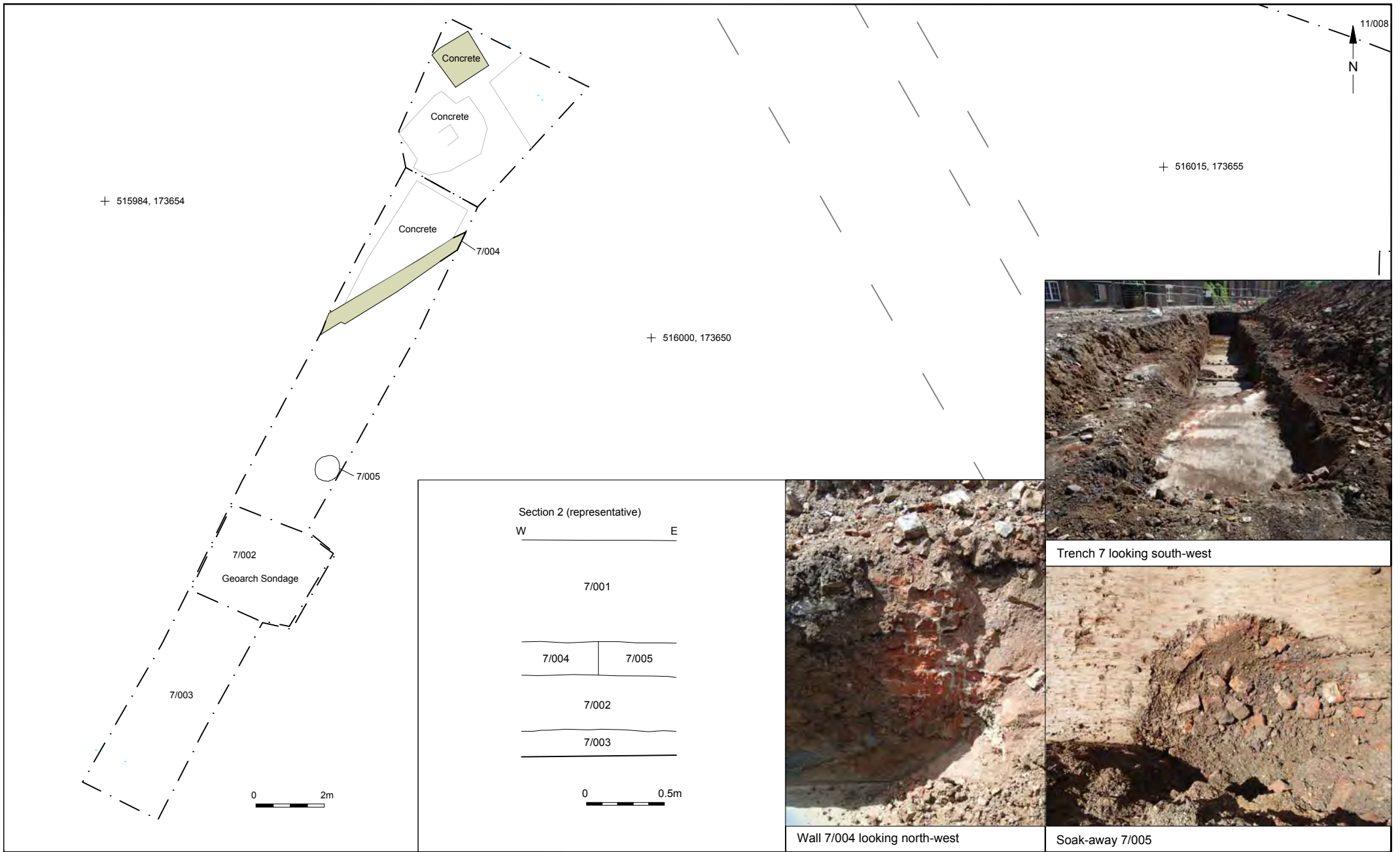


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Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: RHC		

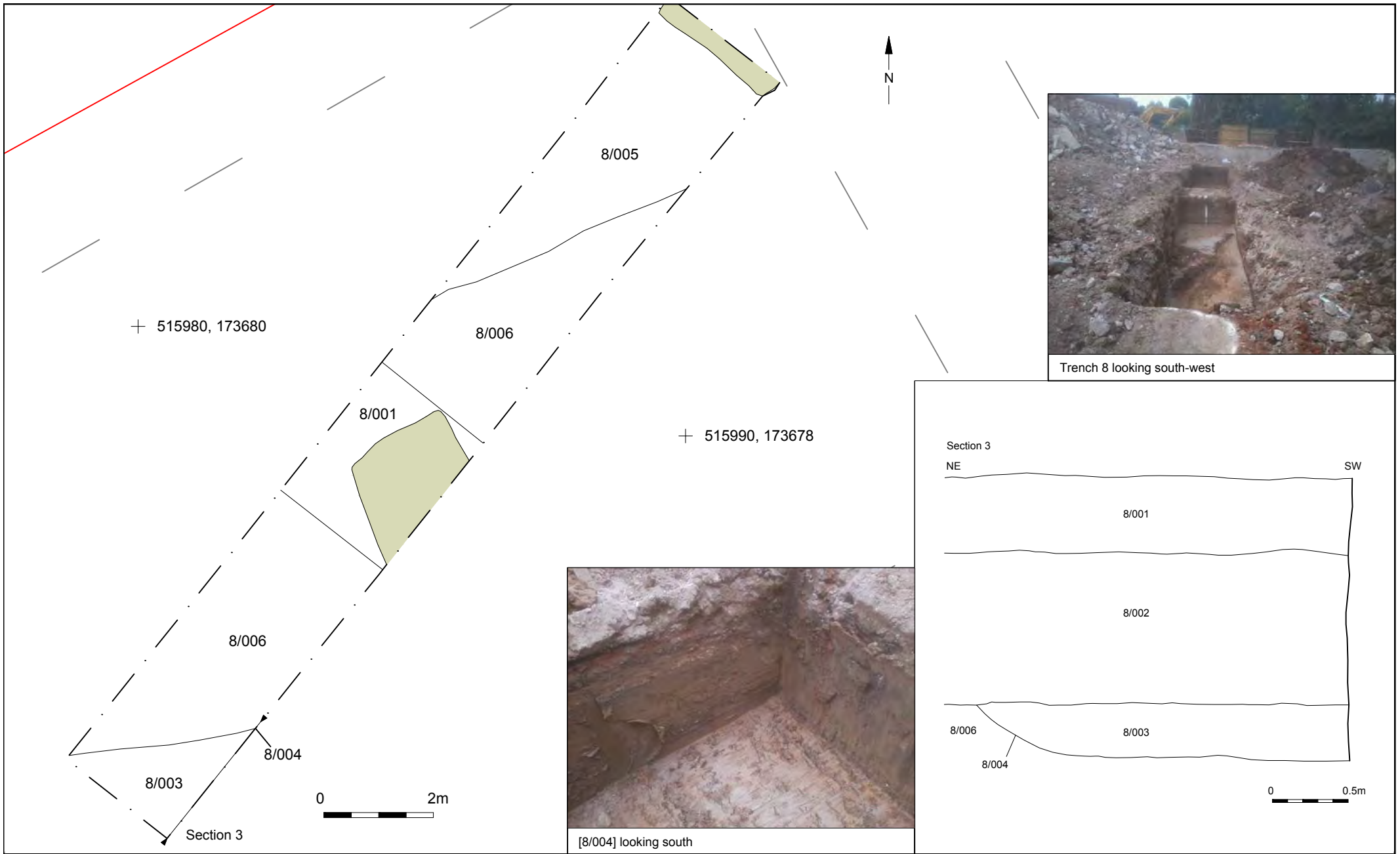




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Project Ref: 5742	June 2014	Trench 2 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: RHC		



© Archaeology South-East		Twickenham Sorting Office, Richmond	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5742	June 2014	Trench 7 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: RHC		



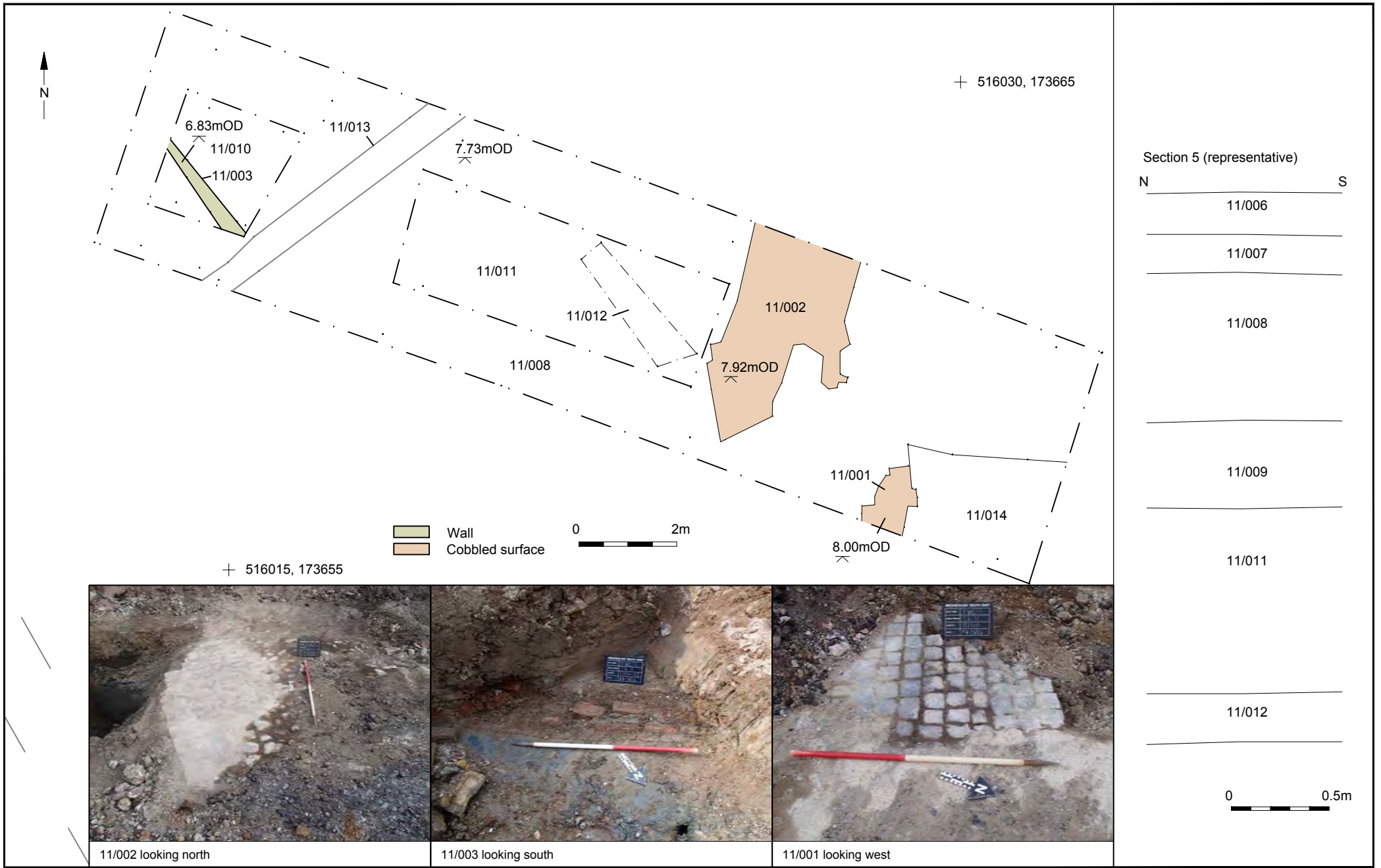
© Archaeology South-East		Twickenham Sorting Office, Richmond	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 5742	June 2014	Trench 8 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: RHC		







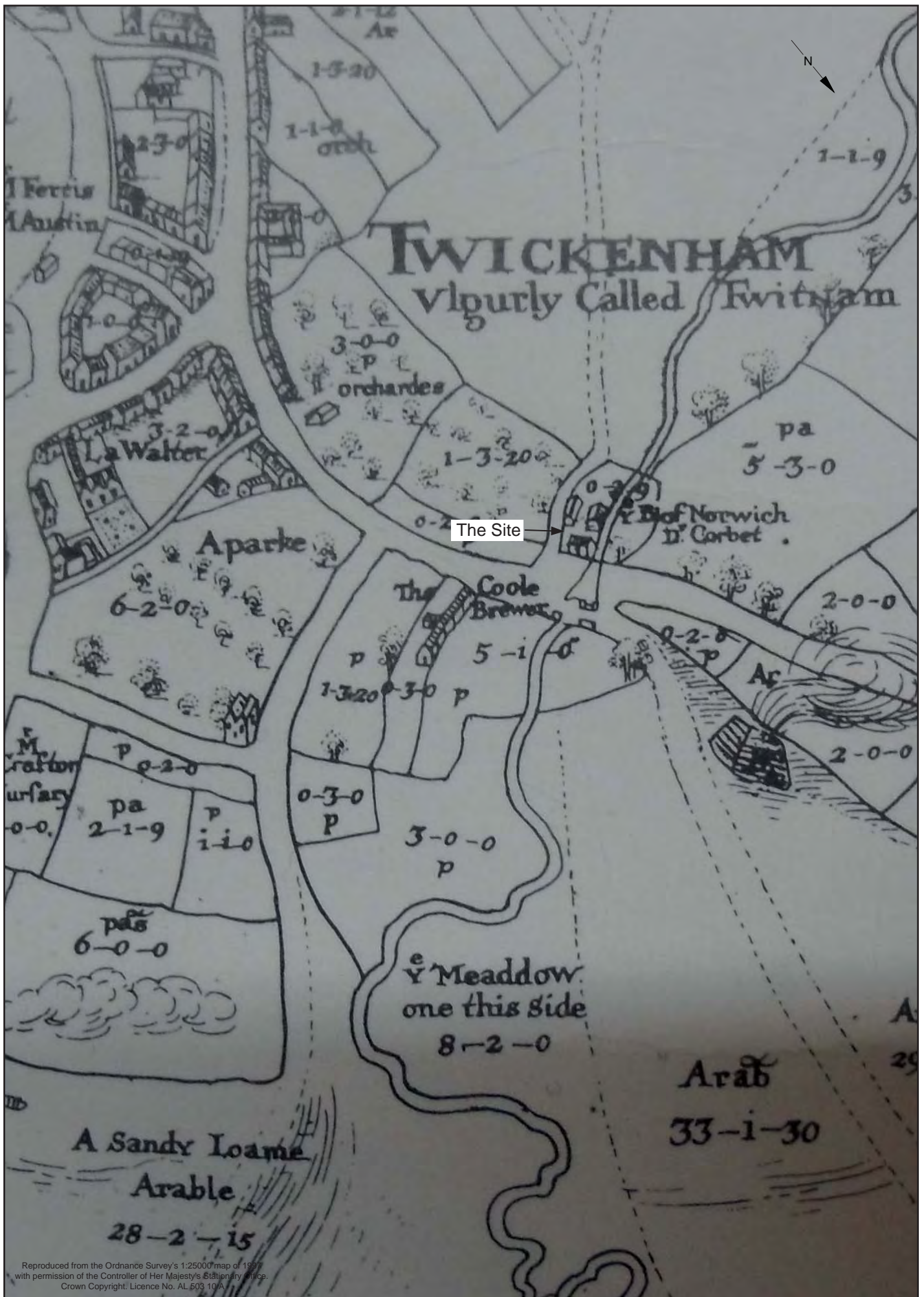
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Project Ref: 5742	June 2014	Trench 10 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: RHC		



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Project Ref: 5742	June 2014	Trench 11 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: RHC		



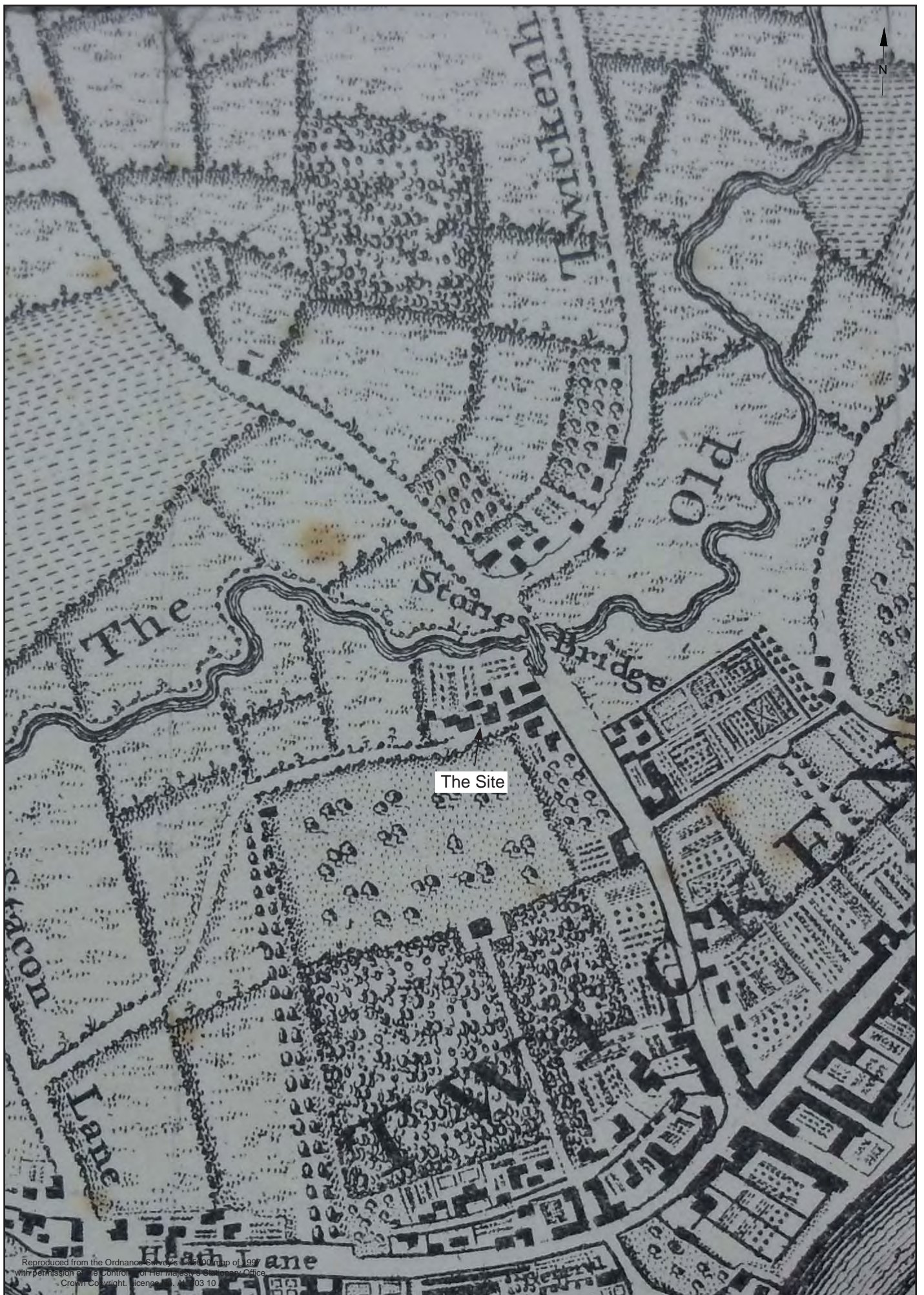




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© Archaeology South-East		Twickenham Sorting Office, Richmond	Fig. 10
Project Ref: 5742	June 2014	Isleworth Hundred, the manor of Sion by Moses Glover, 1635	
Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: JLR		

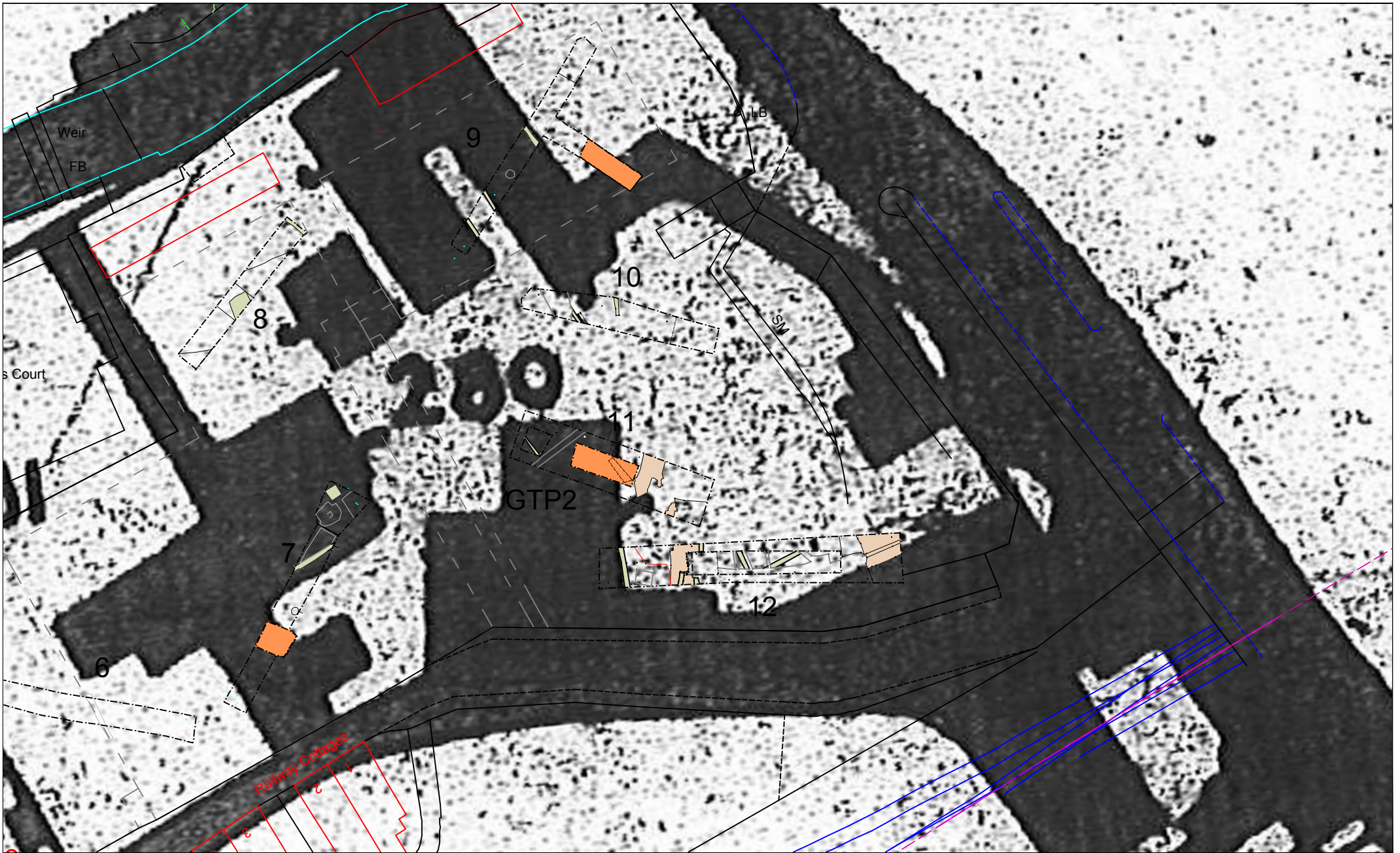




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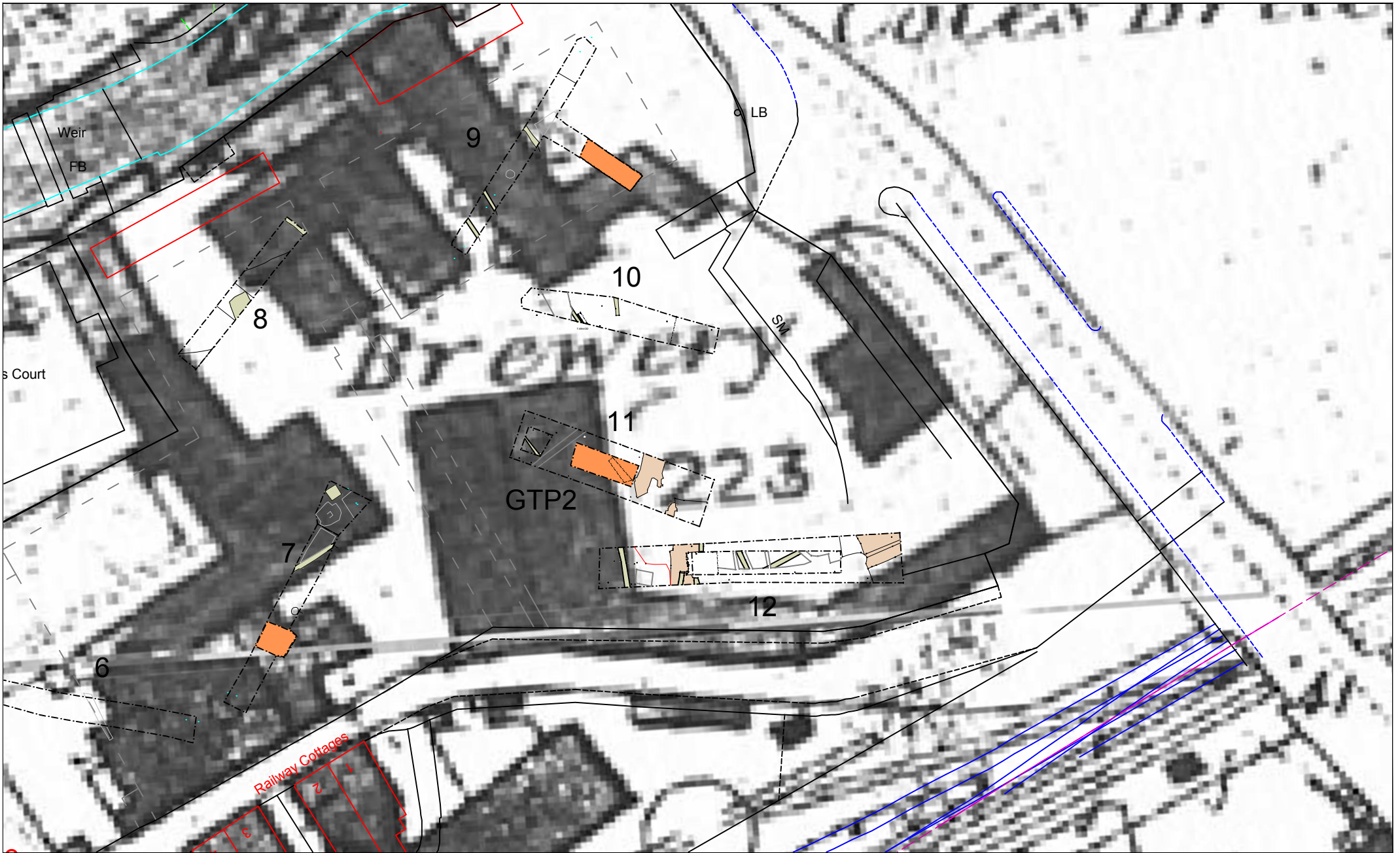
© Archaeology South-East		Twickenham Sorting Office, Richmond	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 5742	June 2014	John Rocque map, 1741-5	
Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: JLR		





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Project Ref: 5742	June 2014	Trench location and Twickenham Tithe map, 1846	
Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: RHC		





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Project Ref: 5742	June 2014	Trench location and 1863 Ordnance Survey map	
Report Ref: 2013088	Drawn by: RHC		





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