

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Land at the former Plaistow Hospital  
Samson Street  
London Borough of Newham**

**NGR 541103 183198  
(TQ 411 831)**

**Planning Ref: 12/01892/FUL**

**ASE Project No: 5953  
Site Code: PHS13**

**ASE Report No: 2013122  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-151515**



**By Diccon Hart  
with contributions by  
Trista Clifford, Karine Le Hégarat  
and Susan Pringle**

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**May 2013**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street, London Borough of Newham, in advance of the redevelopment of the site.*

*Six archaeological evaluation trenches, each measuring 20.00m by 1.80m were excavated on the site to reveal the underlying Taplow Gravels at a maximum elevation of 6.00m OD in the southeast corner of the site (Trench 6) falling away to 5.76m OD to the northeast (Trench 2) and 5.60m OD to the west (Trench 1), with a minimum height of 4.90m OD recorded in Trench 3.*

*The earliest archaeological activity identified on the site dates to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century and includes a north-south field boundary, which appears on the 1869 Ordnance Survey map of the site, and a small rectangular pit, both of which were located towards the centre of the site. The remaining archaeological features identified date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and include a large probable gravel quarry towards the centre of the site and an extensive but shallow feature in the northeast corner. Both appear to be infilled during groundworks associated with the construction of Plaistow Hospital at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These features were sealed by layers of recent made ground, measuring up to 1.60m deep which are also likely to be related to the construction of the hospital on the site. The absence of any soil horizons in any of the excavated trenches indicates a degree of horizontal truncation across the site.*

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## **1 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 (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street, London Borough of Newham. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 541103 183198 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the site, according to the latest data from the British Geological Survey consists of Taplow Gravel formation, consisting of post-diversionary Thames river terrace gravels (BGS 2013).

1.2.2 The site is broadly level, at around 6.30m OD. The site is bounded to the north by Southern Road, to the east by Credon Road, to the southeast by Nile Road and to the west and southwest by Samson Street. At the time of the fieldwork the site consisted of an active demolition site, with standing buildings surviving along the western and southern perimeter, while buildings along the eastern and northern frontages had already been cleared.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission for the residential redevelopment of the site was granted in 2012 (Planning Reference: 12/01892/FUL) A planning condition attached to the permission required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, stating that:

*'No development, with the exception of that for which prior approval of demolition has already been secured, shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.'*

*Reason: Significant archaeological remains may survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development, in accordance with the guidance and model condition set out in PPS 5'.*

1.3.1 A Desk Based Assessment of the archaeological potential of the site was subsequently prepared by CgMs Consulting Ltd (CgMs 2012a). A Written Scheme of Investigation was also prepared by CgMs (CgMs 2012b) and approved by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) in its capacity as advisors to the Local Planning Authority on archaeological

matters. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009) and GLAAS (GLAAS 2009)

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The Aims and Objectives of the archaeological work were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012b) and are reproduced below.

- *To establish whether any archaeological sites exist within the study site, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to require preservation in situ.*
- *The evaluation should aim to determine, as far as is 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 development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied, and attention should be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).*
- *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.*
- *Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:*
  - 1) *To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity.*
  - 2) *To establish the environmental context of prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern activity.*
  - 3) *Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.*
  - 4) *Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.*
- *Where physical preservation is likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect effect of the proposed development should also be considered.*

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation, carried out on the site between 4<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012b). The work was carried out by Diccon Hart, Dylan Hopkinson and Vasilis Tsamis (Senior Archaeologists), John Cook (Archaeologist) and Antonio Reis (Assistant archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following archaeological background is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment of the site (CgMs 2012a), which considers the archaeological evidence within a 1km radius of the site held in the Greater London Historic Environment Record. For a full account of the archaeological background of the site and area, the reader is referred to that document.

### *Palaeolithic and Mesolithic*

- 2.2 Finds of Palaeolithic date in the vicinity of the site includes six handaxes, six unmodified flakes and a retouched flake, recovered during work in the West Ham area, some 600m to the southeast of the site. Further finds of Palaeolithic material have been made to the northeast of the site, in the Green Street/Upton Park area. Given that the presence of Palaeolithic material is often very difficult to predict, the possibility exists that further material of this date may be present on the site.

### *Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age*

- 2.3 Finds of later prehistoric date in the vicinity of the site include a flaked Neolithic axe recorded to the north of the site at Upton Park, while a possible prehistoric settlement is recorded some 300m to the east of the site, on the basis of observations made in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Roman*

- 2.4 Finds of Roman material in proximity to the site include a bronze coin of later 4<sup>th</sup> century date found to the southwest of the site and the recovery of residual Roman pottery to the south of the site at Prince Regent Lane and Woodside School.

### *Saxon and medieval*

- 2.5 No finds of Saxon date are known within a 1km radius of the site. The manor of Plaiz is first recorded in c. 1268, while the first reference to Pleystowe dates to c. 1278. While the site of Plaistow Manor remains undetermined, the manor house of Bretts Manor is recorded to the northeast of the site at St. Mary's Road and a tithe barn is known to the southwest. Medieval settlement has been identified at Greengate Street, some 680m to the southwest of the site. The site itself is considered to have lain in open land during the medieval period.

### *Post-medieval*

- 2.6 A map regression exercise shows the site to have lain within open fields until the construction of the first hospital on the site in 1871 (the West Ham Board of Guardians Smallpox Hospital), with the subsequent construction of the Poplar Board of Works Infectious Diseases Hospital on the site in 1877. In 1901 the site was redeveloped with the construction of the new Plaistow Fever Hospital on the site which effectively amalgamating the earlier separate hospitals (along with a nearby temporary smallpox hospital on Pragell Street).

This involved the demolition of many of the older hospital buildings and the construction of a new hospital complex, designed by Edwin T Hall.

- 2.7 The site suffered bomb damage in 1941 and 1944. The hospital complex underwent several minor modifications until its eventual closure in 2006.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** Six trenches measuring 20.00m by 1.80m at base were mechanically excavated on the site, as shown in Figure 2. These trenches were sited in order to investigate those parts of the site which had not been subject to prior disturbance by the construction of the various hospital buildings. A planned seventh trench in the south-east of the site was abandoned due to asbestos contamination.
- 3.2** 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, whichever was higher.
- 3.3** Some revision to trench locations was necessary due to existing site conditions and obstructions. In addition, the northern end of Trench 5 was extended to the east in order to fully expose archaeological features present in this part of the trench. All significant revisions were made with the agreement of GLAAS through CgMs.
- 3.4** All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only. Test pits were recorded on plastic drawing film at appropriate scales.
- 3.5** Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.6** Trenches were backfilled and compacted by machine but no further reinstatement was undertaken.

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Archive Quantification

Number of Contexts	24
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	3
Bulk Samples	none
Photographs	33 digital images
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	none
Environmental flots/residue	none

Table 1: Archive quantification

### 4.2 Geology and overburden

4.2.1 The underlying natural geology recorded on the site comprised river terrace gravels of the Taplow formation (recorded in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and the northern end of Trench 5), overlain in places by a capping of mid yellow silty clay (recorded in Trenches 2 and 6 and the southern end of Trench 5). The natural geology was recorded at a maximum elevation of 6.00m OD in the southeast corner of the site (Trench 6) falling away to 5.76m OD to the northeast (Trench 2) and 5.60m OD to the west (Trench 1), with a minimum height of 4.90m OD recorded in Trench 3.

4.2.2 The overburden recorded across the site generally consisted of layers of made ground of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date. This varied in depth from 0.60m in the southeast of the site (Trench 6) to 1.60m in Trench 3.

### 4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

Length: 20.00m    Width: 1.80m    Depth: 2.25m    Orientation: East-west

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Max. height m OD
2/001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	6.96
2/002	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.90m	6.66
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	5.76
2/004	Cut	Ditch? Cut	8.00m min.	Tr.	0.60m	5.76
2/005	Deposit	Ditch? Fill	8.00m min.	Tr.	0.60m	5.76

Table 2: Trench 2 recorded contexts

4.3.1 Natural geology, consisting of mid yellow clay [2/003] was recorded at around 5.75m OD across the trench.

4.3.2 An extensive but shallow feature [2/004] was recorded in the western half of this trench, extending over some 8.00m within the trench but continuing beyond the limits of the excavation to the west. The function of this feature remains unknown but quantities of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century brick and concrete

rubble in the backfill [2/005] suggest it is of relatively recent origin. Given the shallow gradient of the cut [2/004] it is possible that it represents little more than levelling-up or landscaping associated with the construction of one of the hospital complexes built on the site towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The feature was sealed by two layers of recent made ground [2/002] and [2/001].

#### 4.4 Trench 5 (Figure 4)

Length: 20.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.70m Orientation: north-south

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Max. height m OD
5/001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m	6.54
5/002	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	6.14
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	5.89
5/004	Cut	19th century ?quarry	10.90m	Tr.	1.05m	5.59
5/005	Deposit	Fill of 5/004	10.90m	Tr.	0.85m	5.39
5/006	Deposit	Fill of 5/004	10.90m	Tr.	0.20m	5.59
5/007	Cut	Pit cut	0.82m	0.72m		5.59
5/008	Deposit	Fill of 5/007	0.82m	0.72m		5.59
5/009	Cut	Ditch cut	2.40m	1.50m	0.55m	5.59
5/010	Deposit	Fill of 5/009	2.40m	1.50m	0.55m	5.59

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 The underlying geology recorded in this trench consisted of river terrace gravels at the northern end of the trench, recorded at 5.79m OD overlain by yellow clay in the southern half of the trench, recorded at 5.89m OD.
- 4.4.2 A north-south aligned ditch [5/009], filled with mid brown silty clay [5/010], was recorded at the far northern end of this trench. This ditch had a broadly U-shaped profile, although a pronounced change in the break of slope on its eastern edge suggests the feature was re-cut during its lifetime. A tiny sherd of glazed stoneware recovered from this feature is dated to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century. Welsh slate, tile and (possibly residual Roman or Saxon) daub were also recovered. Given the documentary evidence that the site lay in open fields prior to the construction of the hospital in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it seems probable that the feature represents a field boundary.
- 4.4.3 A small rectangular pit [5/007], filled with mid brown silty clay [5/008] lay immediately to the west of ditch [5/009]. Finds recovered from this feature include brick and clay pipe, both of which are dated to the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two conjoining fragments of fired clay were recovered from this feature. Although this material cannot be dated with any certainty, it is possible that it is prehistoric in origin.
- 4.4.4 A large rectilinear cut towards the centre of the trench [5/004], which measured some 10.90m across within the confines of the trench, probably represents a gravel quarry, although it seems likely that the feature was subsequently used for rubbish disposal, given the capping of clay [5/006] over a fill of dark blackish brown silty sand [5/005]. This lower fill contained 19<sup>th</sup> century brick rubble (not retained) and it is probable the backfilling of the

feature is associated with the construction of the hospital on the site in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- 4.4.5 These features were sealed by two layers of recent made ground [5/002] and [5/001].

#### 4.6 Negative trenches (Figures 5-8)

4.6.1 Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 6 contained no archaeological features or deposits, although truncation from services associated with the hospital complex were present in Trenches 1, 4 and 6, and truncation resulting from recent grubbing out of foundations was noted along the southern edge of Trench 4 and in Trench 3. The dimensions and orientation of these trenches is tabulated in Table 4 and the relevant contexts can be found in Table 5.

Trench no.	Length	Width	Depth	Orientation
1	20.00m	1.80m	1.40m	N-S
3	20.00m	1.80m	1.60m	N-S
4	20.00m	1.80m	1.00m	E-W
6	20.00m	1.80m	1.00m	N-S

Table 4: Details of negative trenches

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth	Height m. OD
1/001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	1.30m	6.35
1/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	5.60
3/001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	1.60m	6.30
3/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	4.90
4/001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	1.00m	6.65
4/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	5.65
6/001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m	6.50
6/002	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	6.22
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	6.00

Table 5: List of recorded contexts, negative trenches

## 5.0 FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Plaistow Hospital. An overview is shown in Table 6 below.

Context	CBM	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
5/008	7	1350	3	172	1	<2
Total	7	1350	3	172	1	<2

Table 6: Quantification of hand collected finds

### 5.2 The pottery by Trista Clifford

5.2.1 A tiny fragment from a glazed stoneware vessel was retrieved from environmental sample <1> [5/010]. An 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date is probable.

### 5.3 The clay tobacco pipe by Trista Clifford

5.3.1 A small stem fragment of 18-19<sup>th</sup> century date came from context [5/008].

### 5.4 The geological material by Trista Clifford

5.4.1 Context [5/008] contained two pieces from a Welsh slate roofing tile. Small fragments of coal were recovered from environmental sample <1> [5/010]. Both are of post-medieval date.

### 5.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Susan Pringle

5.5.1 A total of twelve fragments of post-medieval ceramic building materials weighing 1.526 kg was examined from two contexts, [5/008] and [5/010], from environmental sample <1>. The material consisted of post-medieval brick, roofing tiles, ceramic pipe and daub/fired clay.

5.5.2 All the ceramic building material has been recorded on a standard recording form. Tile has been quantified by fabric, using the Museum of London (MoL) type series, and by form, weight and fragment count and the information has been entered onto an Excel database. Only items of interest have been retained.

Context	Context date (approx.)	Types present
5/008	1850-1950	Ceramic pipe, roofing slate, post-medieval brick, undated fired clay
5/010	1480-1800	Tile flake, daub

Table 7: Dating table with context date (approximate) and contents

*Post-medieval brick*

- 5.5.3 One Kentish yellow stock brick was recorded from context [5/008]. It had a fairly shallow, but damaged, frog; surviving dimensions were 165+ mm x 108 mm x 66 mm. Bricks of this type were used in London between c. 1770 and c.1940, but the shallow frog suggested a date in the 19th century.

*Post-medieval roof tile*

- 5.5.4 A single fragment, probably of peg tile, in MoL fabric 2276 came from context 5/010, from environmental sample <1>. It cannot be closely dated, but this fabric was the most commonly used in London between c. 1480 and the end of the 18th century.

*Ceramic pipe*

- 5.5.5 Context [5/008] contained four fragments of ceramic pipe, possibly a land-drain, in an orange fabric with abundant very fine grade quartz and inclusions of fine red iron-rich material and white mica. The external diameter of the pipe was approximately 6mm, although it was not perfectly circular. The pipe appeared to have been extruded rather than moulded, dating it to between c.1850 to 1940.

*Slate*

- 5.5.6 Three pieces of dark grey roofing slate, c. 4mm thick with part of a nail-hole, came from context [5/008]. They were probably north Welsh slate, which was widely used for roofing in London from the later 18th century until the early 20th century.

*Daub/fired clay*

- 5.5.7 Context [5/008] contained two conjoining fragments of clay containing calcareous inclusions and rock fragments. This material could not be dated although it seems to have been deliberately tempered. Context [5/010] contained a very abraded fragment of daub in a soft, fine orange fabric. It had no features or original surfaces. No date could be assigned to this material but they may have been residual earlier material; the fired clay could have had a prehistoric origin, and the daub closely resembled Roman or Saxon daub in texture.

*Summary*

- 5.5.8 The identifiable material in the assemblage was all of post-medieval date. The latest datable item was the ceramic pipe; the remaining brick and tile could have dated from the late 18th or 19th century. The daub and fired clay could not be dated but may represent earlier residual material (see above).

**5.6 Other Finds** by Trista Clifford

- 5.6.1 Environmental sample <1> [5/010] contained a small amount of abraded, undiagnostic slag together with a tiny scrap of colourless glass; both are of post-medieval date.

**6.0 Environmental sample** by Karine Le Hégarat

- 6.1 A single sample was taken during archaeological work at the site primarily to assist finds recovery such as microliths and small pieces of flint débitage. It was also taken for the recovery of environmental remains such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca. The sample came from the fill of ditch intervention [5/009]. A brick fragment dating to the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from the feature. Sample <01> was processed in a flotation tank and the residue and flot were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residue was passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 8). The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and its content recorded (Table 9).
- 6.2 No pieces of flint such as microdébitage and small tools were present in the sample. Nonetheless, a small quantity of slag, coal, CBM, stone, pot and glass was found in the residue. Sample <01> produced a small flot (20ml) which was dominated by uncharred material including sediment, rootlets and uncharred seeds such as goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and knotgrass / dock (*Polygonum / Rumex* sp.). Charred plant remains were scarce.
- 6.3 The sample produced a small assemblage of charcoal including less than ten fragments >4mm in size. It was dominated by fragments <2mm and flecks. The majority of these fragments were poorly preserved as a result of sediment percolation and concretion; and therefore no identifications have been obtained. Percolation can result from fluctuations in ground water level. No other environmental remains were represented.
- 6.4 This small assemblage is too limited and too poorly preserved to provide meaningful interpretations regarding fuel use or to provide material suitable.



Table 8: Residue Quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250)

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	5/010	Ditch	40	40	*	<2	**	<2	Slag */6g - Coal */4g - CBM */8g - Stone */2g - Pot */<2g, Glass */<2g

Table 9: Flot Quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	5/010	8	20	20	70	20	** <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Polygonum</i> / <i>Rumex</i> sp.		*	**

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The earliest activity identified during the course of the investigation dates to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century and includes a small pit and a north-south aligned field boundary ditch in Trench 5, which corresponds to the north-south boundary shown on the 1869 Ordnance Survey map of the area (Figure 9). It is possible that the feature identified at the western end of Trench 2 also represents this same field boundary, though this identification is less certain.
- 7.2 Apart from a tiny amount of possibly earlier residual material (fired clay and daub), there was scant evidence for activity prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century construction of the hospital. This accords with the documentary evidence which shows the site set within open fields prior to this time. Activity of later 19<sup>th</sup> century date includes the probable gravel quarry [5/004] and possibly the shallow feature [2/004], if not a field boundary, both of which may have been infilled during groundworks associated with the construction of the hospital complex on the site.
- 7.3 The absence of any intact soil horizons in any of the excavated trenches and the presence of up to 1.60m of 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> century made ground across the site indicates a certain degree of horizontal truncation across the site. Again, this is probably related to groundworks associated with the construction of the hospital complex on the site, although the presence of archaeological features in Trenches 2 and 5 indicate that, in these areas at least, this truncation was not of sufficient depth to obliterate archaeological horizons. Elsewhere, such as in Trench 3, where the natural geology was encountered almost 1 metre below the levels recorded in Trenches 2 and 5, it is probably safe to assume that archaeological horizons have been entirely truncated by building operations associated with Plaistow Hospital.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeology South-East would like to thank CgMs and their client for commissioning the work and Adam Single of GLAAS for his assistance throughout the project.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	PHS13					
Identification Name and Address	Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street, London E13.					
County, District &/or Borough	Newham					
OS Grid Refs.	541103 183198					
Geology	Taplow Gravel					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5953					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow✓ Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 04.04.13- 21.05.13	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Diccon Hart					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern✓		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street, London Borough of Newham, in advance of the redevelopment of the site.</p> <p>Six archaeological evaluation trenches, each measuring 20.00m by 1.80m were excavated on the site to reveal the underlying Taplow Gravels at a maximum elevation of 6.00m OD in the southeast corner of the site (Trench 6) falling away to 5.76m OD to the northeast (Trench 2) and 5.60m OD to the west (Trench 1), with a minimum height of 4.90m OD recorded in Trench 3.</p> <p>The earliest archaeological activity identified on the site dates to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century and includes a north-south field boundary, which appears on the 1869 Ordnance Survey map of the site, and a small rectangular pit, both of which were located towards the centre of the site. The remaining archaeological features identified date to the 19th century and include a large probable gravel quarry towards the centre of the site and an extensive but shallow feature in the northeast corner. Both appear to be infilled during groundworks associated with the construction of Plaistow Hospital at the end of the 19th century. These features were sealed by layers of recent made ground, measuring up to 1.60m deep which are also likely to be related to the construction of the hospital on the site. The absence of any soil horizons in any of the excavated trenches indicates a degree of horizontal truncation across the site.</p>						

## OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-151515**

### Project details

Project name Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street, London E13

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street, London Borough of Newham, in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Six archaeological evaluation trenches, each measuring 20.00m by 1.80m were excavated on the site to reveal the underlying Taplow Gravels at a maximum elevation of 6.00m OD in the southeast corner of the site (Trench 6) falling away to 5.76m OD to the northeast (Trench 2) and 5.60m OD to the west (Trench 1), with a minimum height of 4.90m OD recorded in Trench 3. The earliest archaeological activity identified on the site dates to the 18th-19th century and includes a north-south field boundary, which appears on the 1869 Ordnance Survey map of the site, and a small rectangular pit, both of which were located towards the centre of the site. The remaining archaeological features identified date to the 19th century and include a large probable gravel quarry towards the centre of the site and an extensive but shallow feature in the northeast corner. Both appear to be infilled during groundworks associated with the construction of Plaistow Hospital at the end of the 19th century. These features were sealed by layers of recent made ground, measuring up to 1.60m deep which are also likely to be related to the construction of the hospital on the site. The absence of any soil horizons in any of the excavated trenches indicates a degree of horizontal truncation across the site.

Project dates Start: 04-04-2013 End: 21-05-2013

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes PHS13 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 5953 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

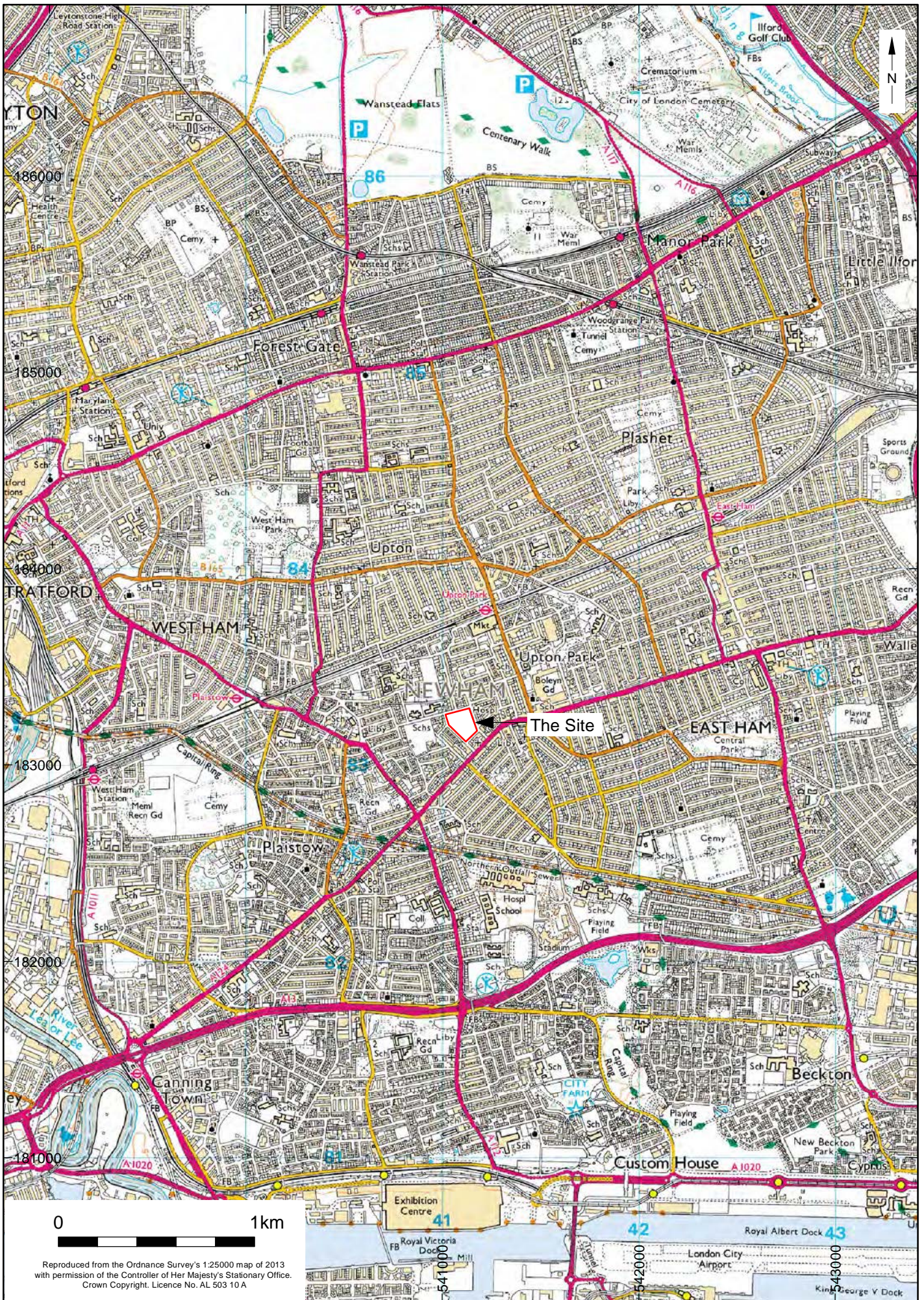
Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Monument type QUARRY Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

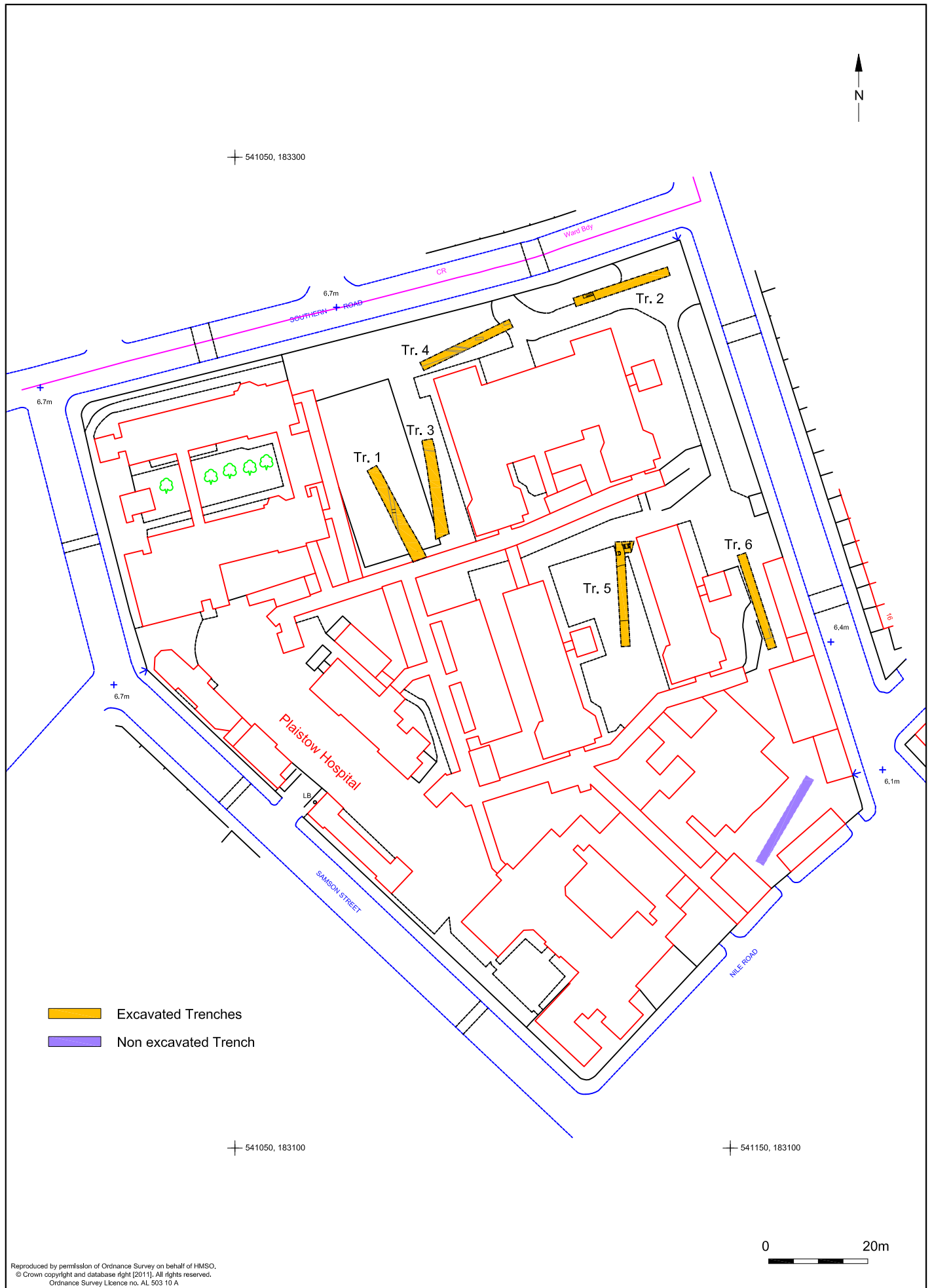
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM WEST HAM Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street, London Borough of Newham, in
Postcode	E13
Study area	1.57 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 411 831 51 0 51 31 43 N 000 02 03 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.00m Max: 6.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Diccon Hart
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"

Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report. Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street, London. E13
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hart, D
Other bibliographic details	2013122
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South-East
Description	A4 bound report
Entered by	Diccon Hart (d.hart@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	24 May 2013

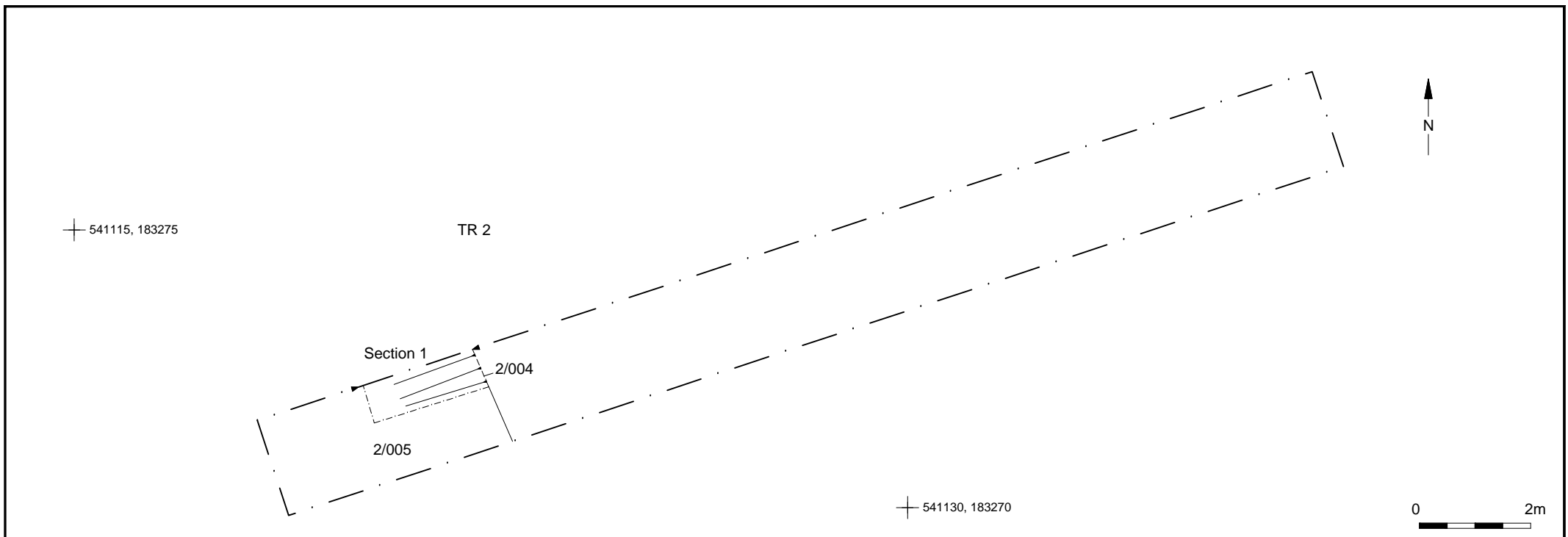


© Archaeology South-East		Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street London Borough of Newham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5953	May 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013122	Drawn by: AR		





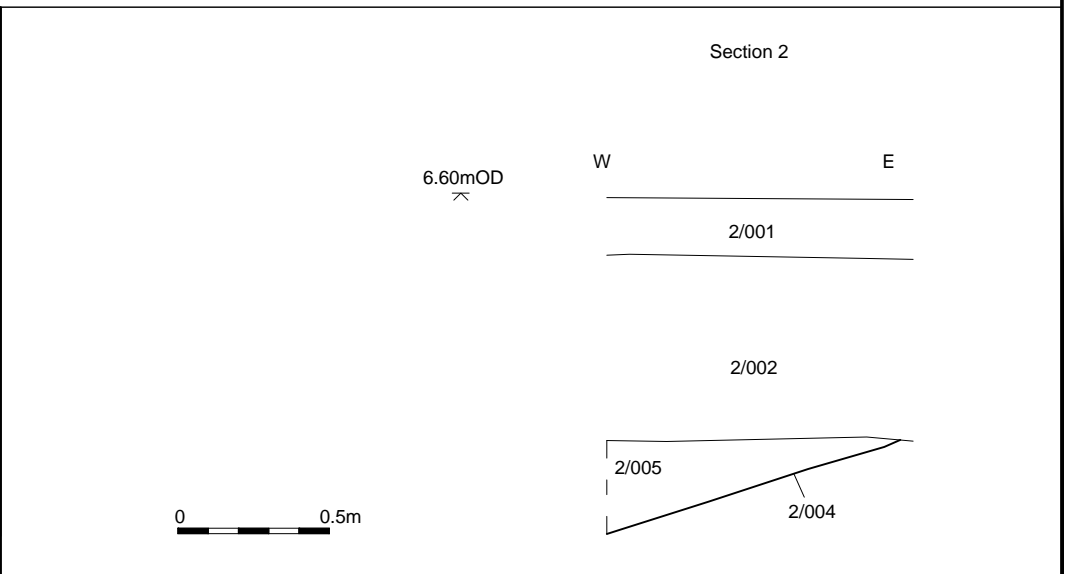
<b>© Archaeology South-East</b>		Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street London Borough of Newham		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5953	May 2013	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2013122	Drawn by: AR			



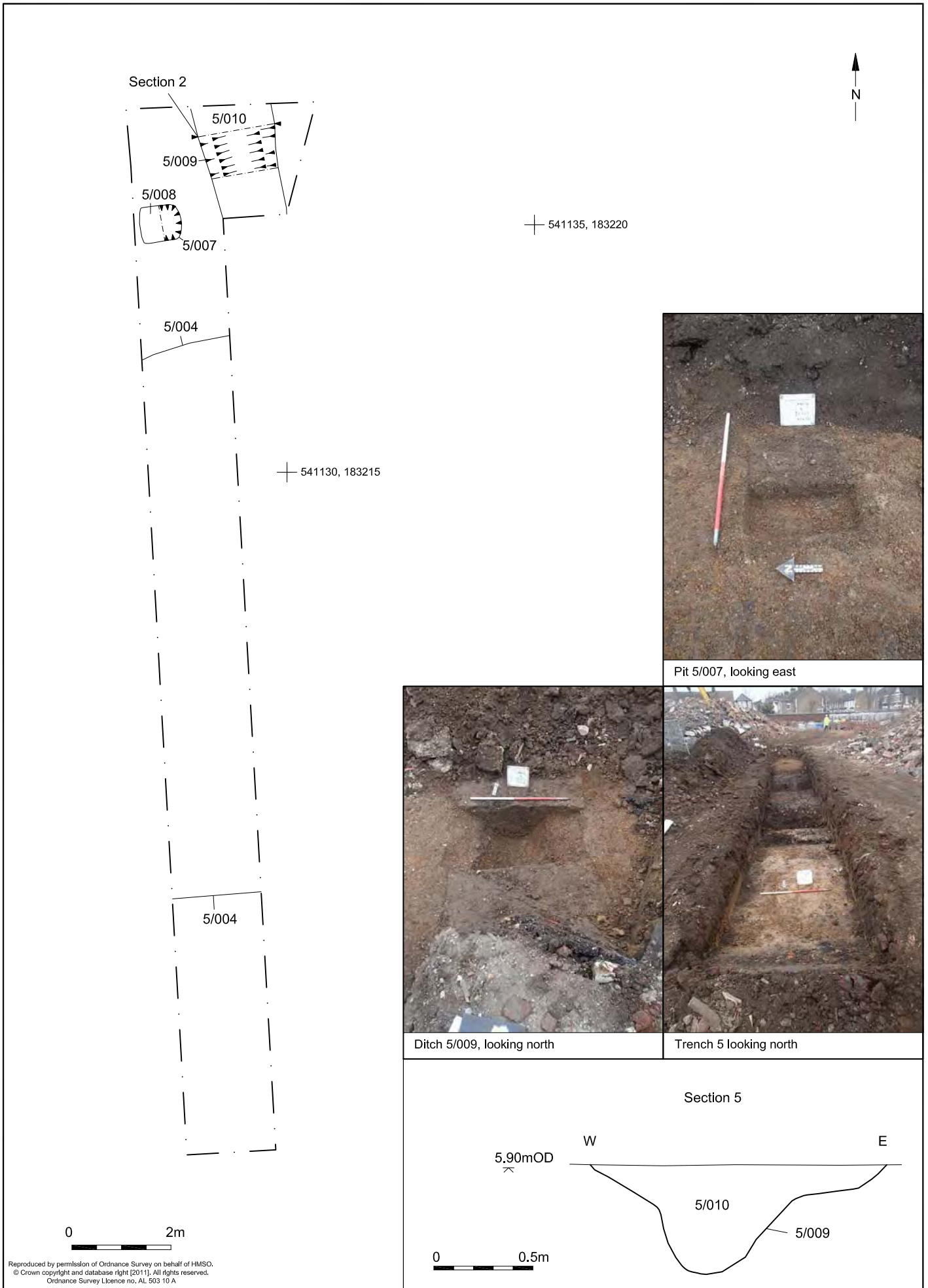
South facing section, showing cut 2/004



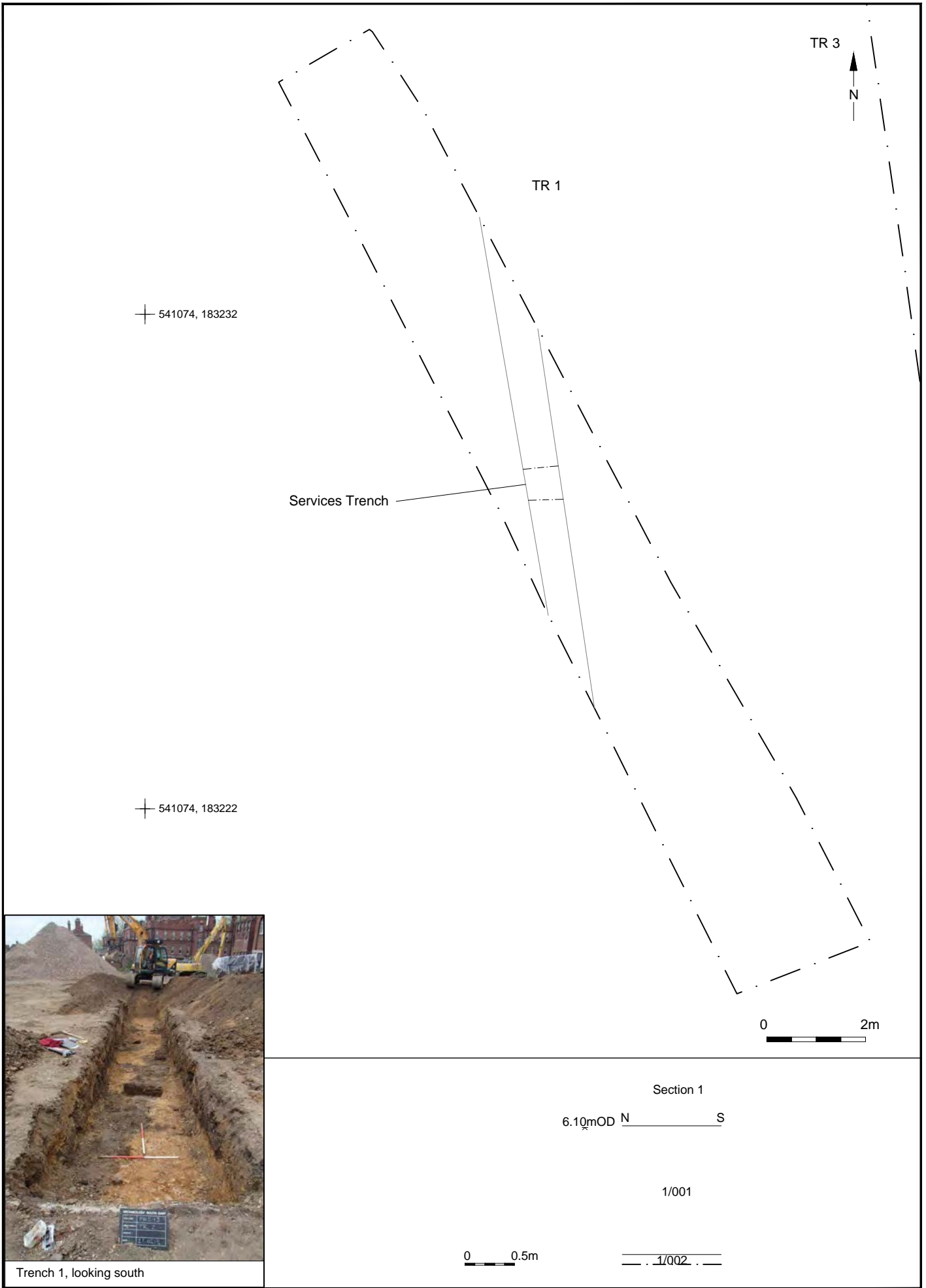
Trench 2, looking east



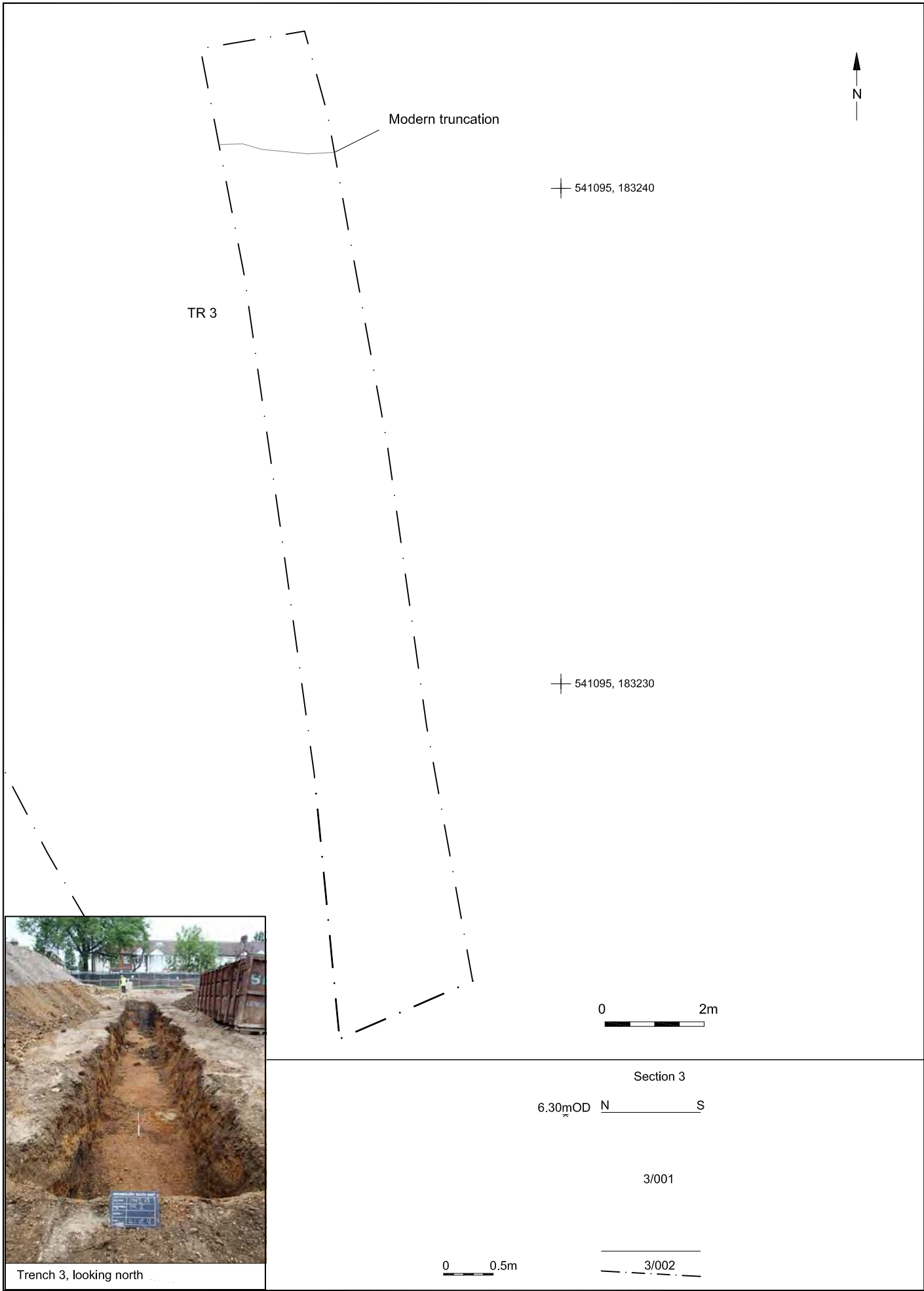
© Archaeology South-East		Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street London Borough of Newham	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5953	May 2013	Trench 2, plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013122	Drawn by: AR		



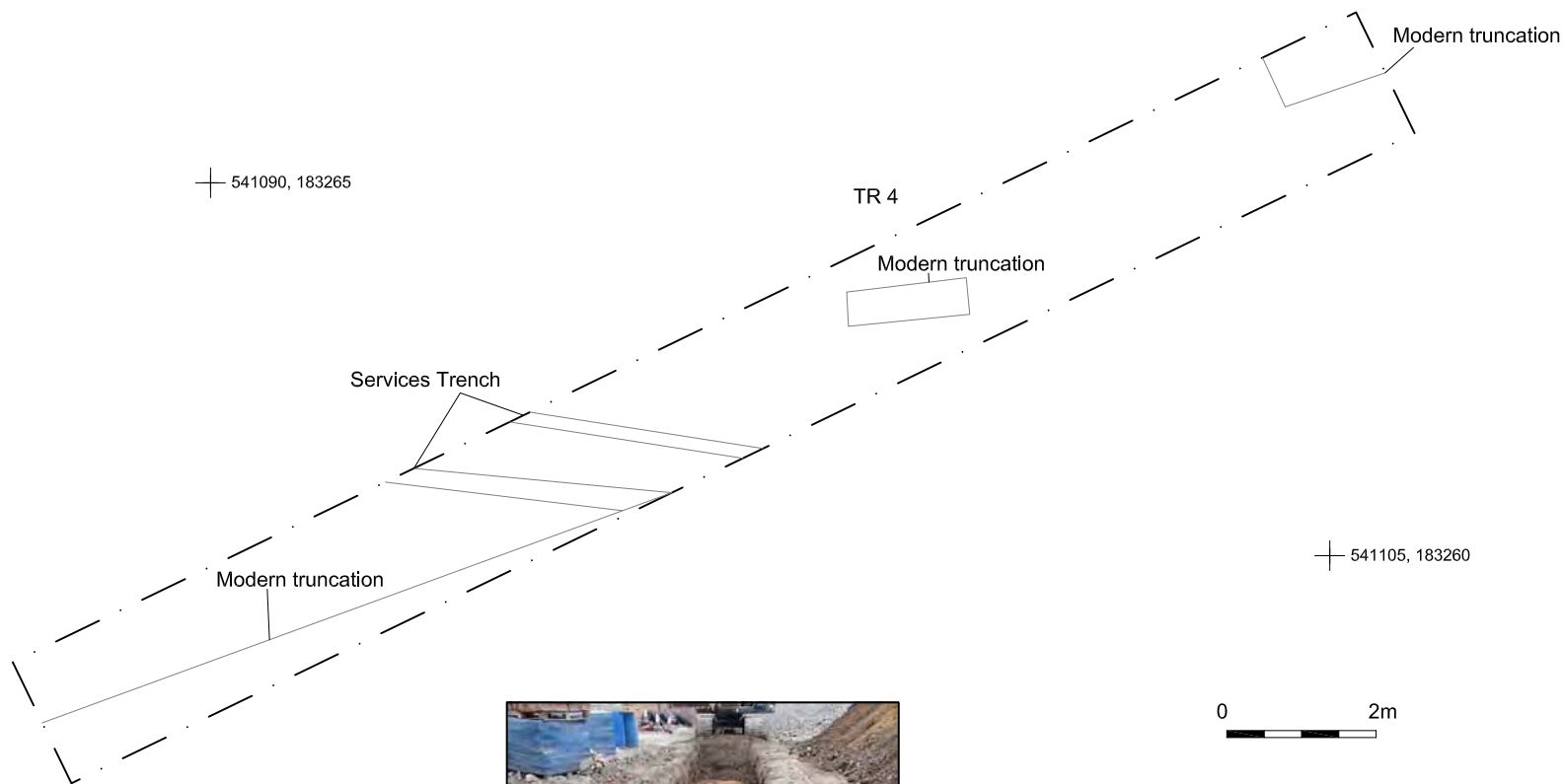
© Archaeology South-East		Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street London Borough of Newham	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5953	May 2013	Trench 5, plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013122	Drawn by: AR		



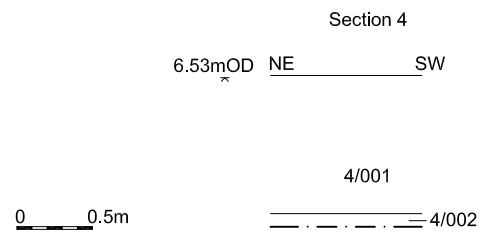
© Archaeology South-East		Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street London Borough of Newham	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 5953	May 2013	Trench 1, plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013122	Drawn by: AR		



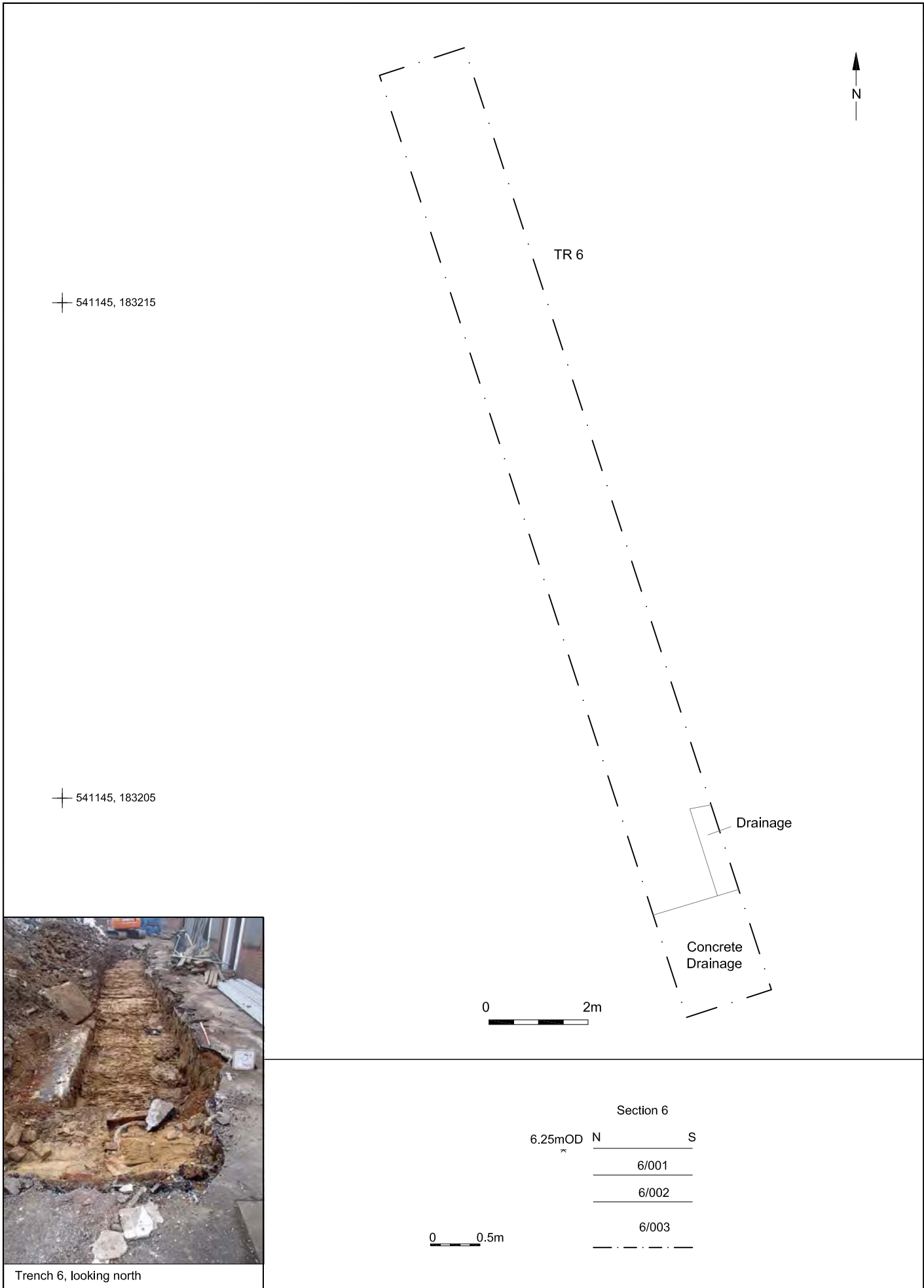
© Archaeology South-East		Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street London Borough of Newham	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 5953	May 2013	Trench 3, plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013122	Drawn by: AR		



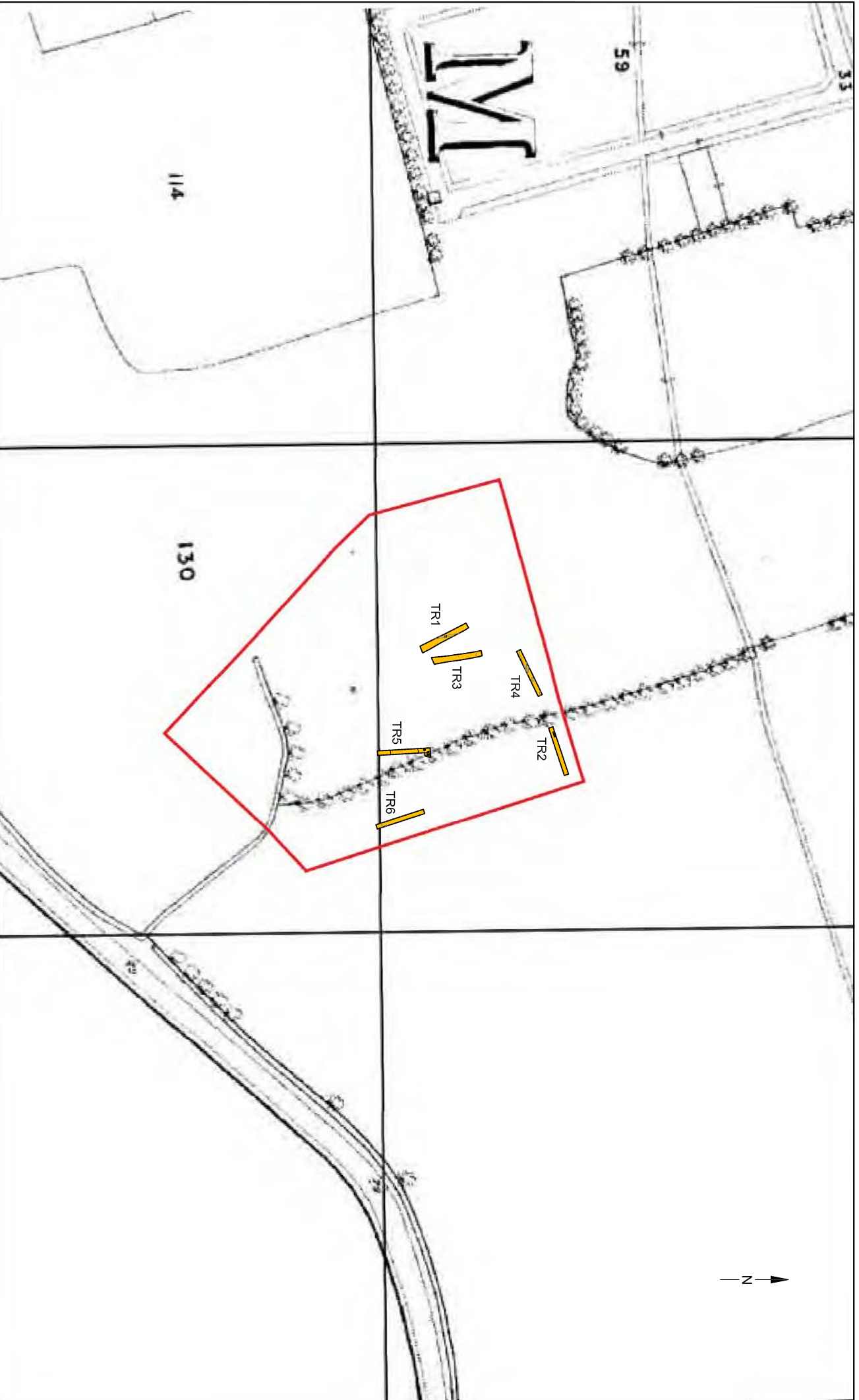
Trench 4, looking east



© Archaeology South-East		Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street London Borough of Newham	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 5953	May 2013	Trench 4, plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013122	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street London Borough of Newham	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 5953	May 2013	Trench 6, plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013122	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at the former Plaistow Hospital, Samson Street London Borough of Newham	
Project Ref: 5953	May 2013		
Report Ref: 2013122	Drawn by: AR	Excavated features in relation to 1869 Ordnance Survey map	
			Fig. 9



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