

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

Professional Centre Car Park, Franciscan Road  
Tooting, London Borough of Wandsworth

NGR: TQ 278 713

Planning Ref: 2012/3870

ASE Project No: 6113

Site Code: FRN 13

ASE Report No: 2013144

OASIS id: archaeol6-151631



By Ian Hogg

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**June 2013**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on The Professional Centre Car Park, Franciscan Road, Tooting, London Borough of Wandsworth in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Four archaeological evaluation trenches, measuring 15.00m x 1.80m, were excavated on the site.*

*No significant archaeological features were recorded. Taplow gravels or an overlying natural clay deposit were observed in all trenches. A large, probably 19th century ditch was recorded in the western part of the site and a single modern wall was recorded in the centre of the site. The wall pertains to the 20th century school that previously occupied the site. The evaluated areas have all been severely truncated in the 20th century which has removed all subsoil and topsoil. A made ground horizon was recorded in all trenches.*

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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 (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development of The Professional Centre Car Park, Franciscan Road, Tooting, London Borough of Wandsworth. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 278 713 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the study site comprises deposits of London Clay overlain by Taplow Gravels. A geotechnical investigation conducted on the site (CgMs 2013a) recorded Taplow Gravels overlain by mottled grey silty clay and made ground.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Wandsworth Borough Council for 45 self-contained flats for the elderly (Planning Ref: 2012/3870) to which has been attached a condition relating to archaeology:

*Condition 18*

*“No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigation body to be acceptable to the Local Planning Authority. In order to satisfactorily identify and record the archaeological significance of the site, in accordance with Council policy DMS2.”*

1.3.2 A Desk Based Assessment of the archaeological potential of the site was subsequently prepared by CgMs Consulting Ltd (CgMs 2013a). A Written Scheme of Investigation for evaluation was also prepared (CgMs 2013b) in accordance with the planning condition and approved by the Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) on behalf of the local planning authority. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and 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 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The evaluation sought to establish whether any archaeological sites exist within the site, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to require preservation in situ.
- 1.4.2 The evaluation aimed 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).
- 1.4.3 The evaluation also sought 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.
- 1.4.4 Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presented an opportunity to address the following objectives:
- 1 To establish the presence or otherwise of medieval activity associated with a nearby medieval moated site, and to define the date and nature of such activity.
  - 2 To establish the environmental context of medieval activity.
  - 3 To establish the presence or otherwise of activity associated with any other periods, and to define the date and nature of such activity.
  - 4 Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
  - 5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

## **5.0 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2013). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Archaeologist) and 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 2013a). For a full account of the archaeological background of the site and area, the reader is referred to that document.
- 2.2 The HER records the site of medieval fishponds within the site (HER Ref. MLO13277) and a medieval moated site to the south of the site (HER Ref. MLO13124). The 1844 Tithe Map (CgMs 2013a; Appendix 4) shows two sides of the moat ditch surviving to the south of the study site and a ditch running towards the moat inside the western boundary of the study site. However, recent geotechnical investigations inside the western boundary of the study site did not record any evidence of an in-filled ditch.
- 2.3 Based on this data, the site is considered to have potential for medieval ditches and fishponds.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Four trial trenches were mechanically excavated on the site under the supervision of ASE staff. There was no deviation of trench location from the locations specified in the WSI (CgMs 2013b).
- 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.
- 3.4 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard recording sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only.
- 3.5 Trenches were located and tied in to the Ordnance Survey using a GPS unit.
- 3.6 Trench plans were hand drawn at 1:20, digitised and three-dimensionally tied in with the survey data.
- 3.7 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.

### **3.8 Archive Quantification**

- 3.8.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC). prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	24
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	None
Photographs	17 digital photographs
Bulk finds	3 bags
Registered finds	None
Environmental flots/residue	None

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 2)

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the west of the site, it was aligned south-west to north-east and measured 15.00m x 1.80m. The trench was 1.00m deep at the south-western end and 0.72m deep at the north-eastern end, excavation ceased at the top of the Taplow Gravels at the south-western end of the trench and natural clay at the north-eastern end.
- 4.1.2 Natural orange grey Taplow Gravels [1/004] was observed at a height of 15.60m aOD; it was overlain by mid orange grey natural clay [2/003] 0.40m thick. This was sealed by a pale grey sand levelling layer [1/002] 0.15m thick; cut by a large linear feature [1/008].
- 4.1.3 The feature [1/008] was aligned north-west to south-east and had steep sides and a flat base. It measured 1.80m in length, 5.20m in width and 1.05m in depth. This feature corresponds with the ditch seen on the 1844 Tithe Map (CgMs 2013a; Figure 5).
- 4.1.4 The primary ditch fill [1/007] consisted of dark grey gravelly clay 0.35m thick; this deposit contained modern CBM and appeared to have been deliberately backfilled. The secondary ditch fill [1/006] was a dark brownish grey rubbly clay, it was 0.36m thick and also contained frequent CBM fragments. An upper ditch fill [1/005] consisted of dark brownish black clay sand, it was 0.37m thick.
- 4.1.5 The cartographic evidence suggests that the ditch is probably of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and was open for at least 20 years.
- 4.1.6 The ditch fills were overlain by mid brownish grey rubbly clay made ground [1/002] between 0.28m and 0.49m thick. The made ground was sealed by the asphalt car park surface [1/001] between 0.28m and 0.34m thick. Levels at the top of the trench on the tarmac ranged between 16.52m OD at the eastern end of the trench and 16.56m OD at the western end.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Layer	Tarmac surface	15.00	1.80	0.28-0.34
1/002	Layer	Made ground	15.00	1.80	0.28-0.49
1/003	Layer	Natural clay	15.00	1.80	0.10-0.15
1/004	Layer	Taplow Gravels	15.00	1.80	0.08
1/005	Fill	Ditch fill	1.80	5.20	0.37
1/006	Fill	Ditch fill	1.80	5.02	0.36
1/007	Fill	Ditch fill	1.80	4.89	0.35
1/008	Cut	Ditch	1.80	5.25	1.05

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

## 4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the centre of the site, it was aligned south-east to north-west; it measured 15.00m x 1.80m. The trench was 0.41 deep at the south-eastern end and 0.20m deep at the north-western end, trench was only excavated to the natural clay in the centre of the trench due to the presence of services.

4.2.2 Natural orange grey clay [2/004] was observed at 15.68m aOD; it was overlain by mid brownish grey rubbly clay made ground [2/003] 0.40m thick. This modern made ground was sealed by a pale grey sand levelling layer [2/002] 0.10m thick; this deposit was sealed by the asphalt car park surface [2/001] between 0.16m and 0.21m thick. Levels at the top of the trench on the tarmac ranged between 16.48m OD at the southern end of the trench and 16.55m OD at the northern end.

4.2.3 No archaeological features were identified within Trench 2.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length m</b>	<b>Max. Width m</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
2/001	Layer	Tarmac surface	15.00	1.80	0.16-0.21
2/002	Layer	Levelling layer	15.00	1.80	0.10
2/003	Layer	Made ground	15.00	1.80	0.40
2/004	Layer	Natural clay	15.00	1.80	0.15

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

### 4.3 Trench 3

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 was located in the north of the site, it was aligned south-west to north-east; it measured 15.00m x 1.80m. The trench was 0.92 deep at the south-western end and 0.70m deep at the north-eastern end, the natural clay was only observed at the north-eastern end of the trench.
- 4.3.2 Natural mid orange grey silty clay [3/007] was observed in the north-eastern half of the trench at a height of 15.79m aOD. At the south-western end of the trench earliest feature was a pale grey concrete wall foundation [3/008], it was aligned east-west and was only seen within a sondage; it measured 2.22m in length, 0.50m in width and 0.20m in height. The foundation was overlain by the wall itself [3/006], it was constructed from yellow stock bricks measuring 225mm x 105mm x 65mm, the wall was laid in stretcher pattern and bonded with cement mortar; the wall measured 2.202m in length, 0.34m in width and 0.47m in height, it was observed at 16.16m aOD. This wall probably formed part of the ancillary school buildings seen in this area of the site in cartographic sources between 1916 and 1991 (CgMs 2013a Figures 8-10).
- 4.3.3 The wall was overlain by modern made ground deposit [3/005], a mid brown clay with occasional modern CBM flecks, it was 0.17m thick. A second made ground deposit [3/004] overlay the earlier made ground as well as sealing the natural deposit at the other end of the trench; this deposit consisted of dark greyish brown rubbly clay 0.31m thick. Made ground deposit [3/004] was overlain by a further layer of made ground [3/003], comprising mid grey sandy rubble 0.21m thick, this deposit was only observed at the south-western end of the trench. The made ground was sealed by a mid greyish brown rubbly gravel levelling deposit [3/002] between 0.11m and 0.13m thick. This deposit was sealed by the asphalt car park surface [3/001] between 0.10m and 0.21m thick. Levels at the top of the trench on the tarmac ranged between 16.38m OD at the eastern end of the trench and 16.57m OD at the western end.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Layer	Tarmac	15.00	1.80	0.10-0.20
3/002	Layer	Levelling layer	15.00	1.80	0.09-0.13
3/003	Layer	Made ground	2.10	1.40	0.21
3/004	Layer	Made ground	0.60	0.60	0.31
3/005	Layer	Made ground	0.60	0.50	0.17
3/006	Masonry	Wall	2.22	0.34	0.47
3/007	Layer	Natural clay	15.00	1.80	0.15
3/008	Masonry	Wall foundation	2.22	0.50	0.20

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 Trench 4 was located in the east of the site, it was aligned south-east to north-west; it measured 15.00m x 1.80m. The trench was 0.91 deep at the south-eastern end and 0.79m deep at the north-western end, excavation ceased at the top of the Taplow Gravels at the south-eastern end and the natural clay at the north-western end.

4.4.2 Natural orange grey Taplow Gravels [4/005] were observed at the south-eastern end of the trench at a height of 15.61m aOD. The gravels were sealed by natural orange grey silty clay [4/004] 0.39m thick. The natural clay was overlain by mid brownish grey rubbly clay; modern made ground [4/003] between 0.37m and 0.42m thick. The made ground was sealed by a levelling layer of pale grey rubbly sand [4/002] between 0.06m and 0.11m thick; this was overlain by the asphalt car park surface [4/001] between 0.18m and 0.23m thick. Levels at the top of the trench on the tarmac ranged between 16.54m OD at the northern end of the trench and 16.56m OD at the southern end.

4.4.3 No archaeological features were identified within Trench 4.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length m</b>	<b>Max. Width m</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
4/001	Layer	Tarmac surface	15.00	1.80	0.18-0.23
4/002	Layer	Levelling deposit	15.00	1.80	0.06-0.11
4/003	Layer	Made ground	15.00	1.80	0.37-0.42
4/004	Layer	Natural clay	15.00	1.80	0.39
4/005	Layer	Taplow gravel	15.00	1.80	0.02

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The evaluation revealed post-medieval remains including a large ditch and a 20<sup>th</sup> century wall. The natural Taplow Gravels were overlain by natural clay deposit across the site.
- 5.2 The large ditch observed in Trench 1 is recorded on both the 1844 Tithe map and the 1868 Ordnance Survey map (CgMs 2013a) and appears to have been backfilled in modern times. This feature is not thought to be related to the medieval activity to the south of the site recorded in the HER.
- 5.4 The wall recorded in Trench 3 almost certainly belonged to the 20<sup>th</sup> century ancillary school buildings seen on the 1916, 1949-51 and 1986-91 Ordnance Survey maps (CgMs 2013a; Figures 8-10).
- 5.5 Cartographic sources seem to suggest that the site was unoccupied until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, the site has been severely truncated horizontally; with no topsoil or subsoil preserved whatsoever in the areas evaluated. This truncation has occurred recently and may have removed all trace of any earlier evidence in the evaluated areas.
- 5.6 From the results of the evaluation it is considered that the site holds little archaeological potential.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

CgMs Consulting 2013a. *The Professional Centre Car Park, Franciscan Road, Tooting; Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.*

CgMs Consulting 2013b. *The Professional Centre Car Park, Franciscan Road, Tooting; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.*

English Heritage 2008. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation.*

GLAAS 2009 *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work.* London Region, English Heritage External Consultation Draft July 2009.

IfA, 2009 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank CGMS Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Mark Stevenson of GLAAS for his guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Ian Hogg. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the evaluation; Vasilis Tsamis and Justin Russell who produced the figures for this report; Andy Leonard who project managed the fieldwork and Jim Stevenson who project managed the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	FRN 13					
Identification Name and Address	The Professional Centre Car Park, Franciscan Road, Tooting					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Wandsworth					
OS Grid Refs.						
Geology	Taplow Gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6113					
Type of Fieldwork	<b>Eval.</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	<b>Shallow Urban</b>	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 29-05-13 to 30-05-13	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CGMS Consulting					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	<b>PM</b>	Other		
<i>Summary</i>						
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on The Professional Centre Car Park, Franciscan Road, Tooting, London Borough of Wandsworth in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Four archaeological evaluation trenches, measuring 15.00m x 1.80m, were excavated on the site.</i></p> <p><i>No significant archaeological features were recorded. Taplow gravels or an overlying natural clay deposit were observed in all trenches. A large, probably 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch was recorded in the western part of the site and a single modern wall was recorded in the centre of the site. The wall pertains to the 20<sup>th</sup> century school that previously occupied the site. The evaluated areas have all been severely truncated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century which has removed all subsoil and topsoil. A made ground horizon was recorded in all trenches.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-151930**

### Project details

Project name	The Professional Centre, Franciscan Road, Tooting
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on The Professional Centre Car Park, Franciscan Road, Tooting, London Borough of Wandsworth in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Four archaeological evaluation trenches, measuring 15.00m x 1.80m, were excavated on the site. No significant archaeological features were recorded. Taplow gravels or an overlying natural clay deposit were observed in all trenches. A large, probably 19th century ditch was recorded in the western part of the site and a single modern wall was recorded in the centre of the site. The wall pertains to the 20th century school that previously occupied the site. The evaluated areas have all been severely truncated in the 20th century which has removed all subsoil and topsoil. A made ground horizon was recorded in all trenches.
Project dates	Start: 29-05-2013 End: 30-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	6113 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	FRN13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Targeted 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 WANDSWORTH TOOTING The Professional Centre, Franciscan Road, Tooting
Postcode	SW17 8HE
Study area	0.80 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 278 713 51 0 51 25 32 N 000 09 41 W Point

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**Project creators**

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

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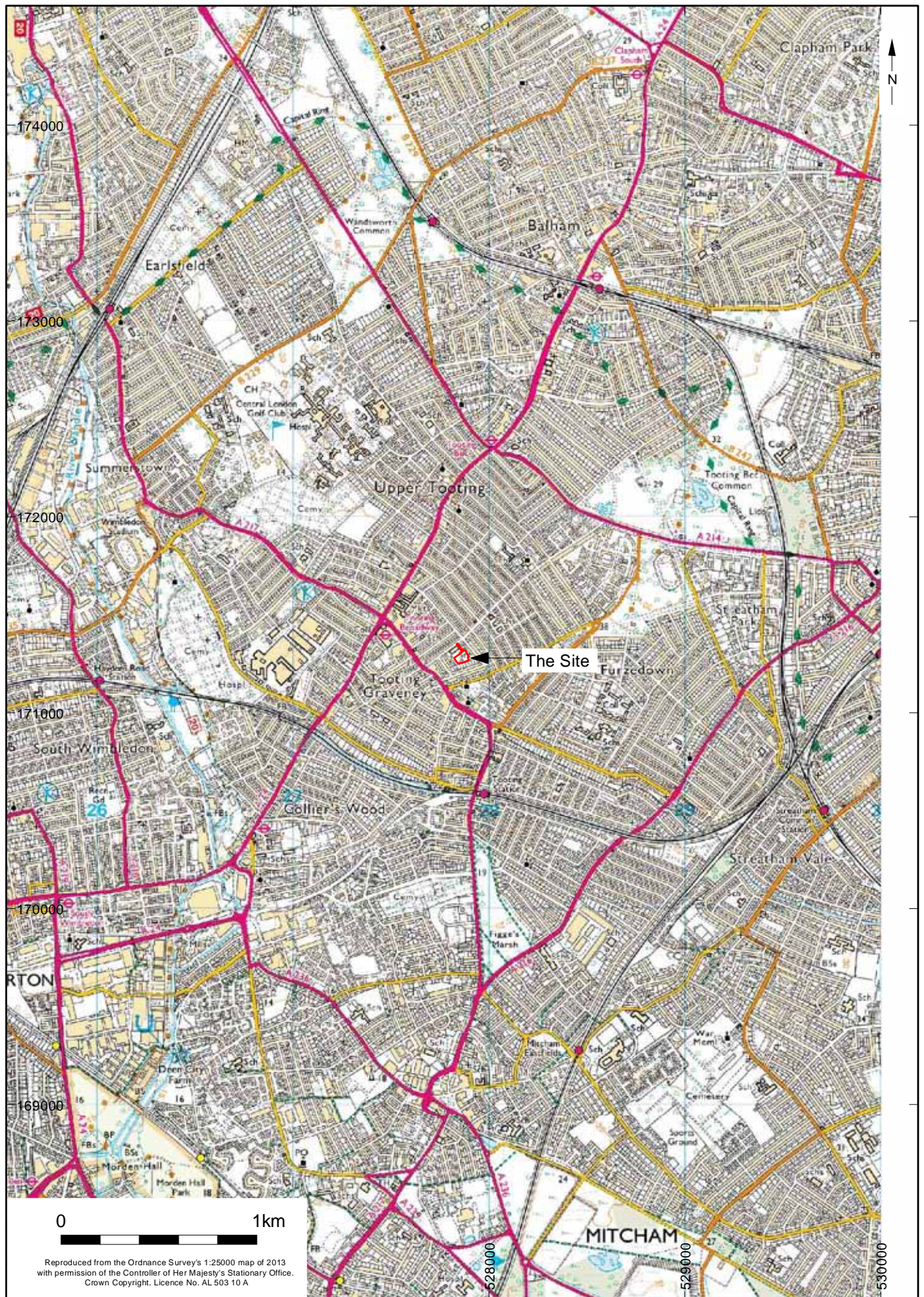
**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

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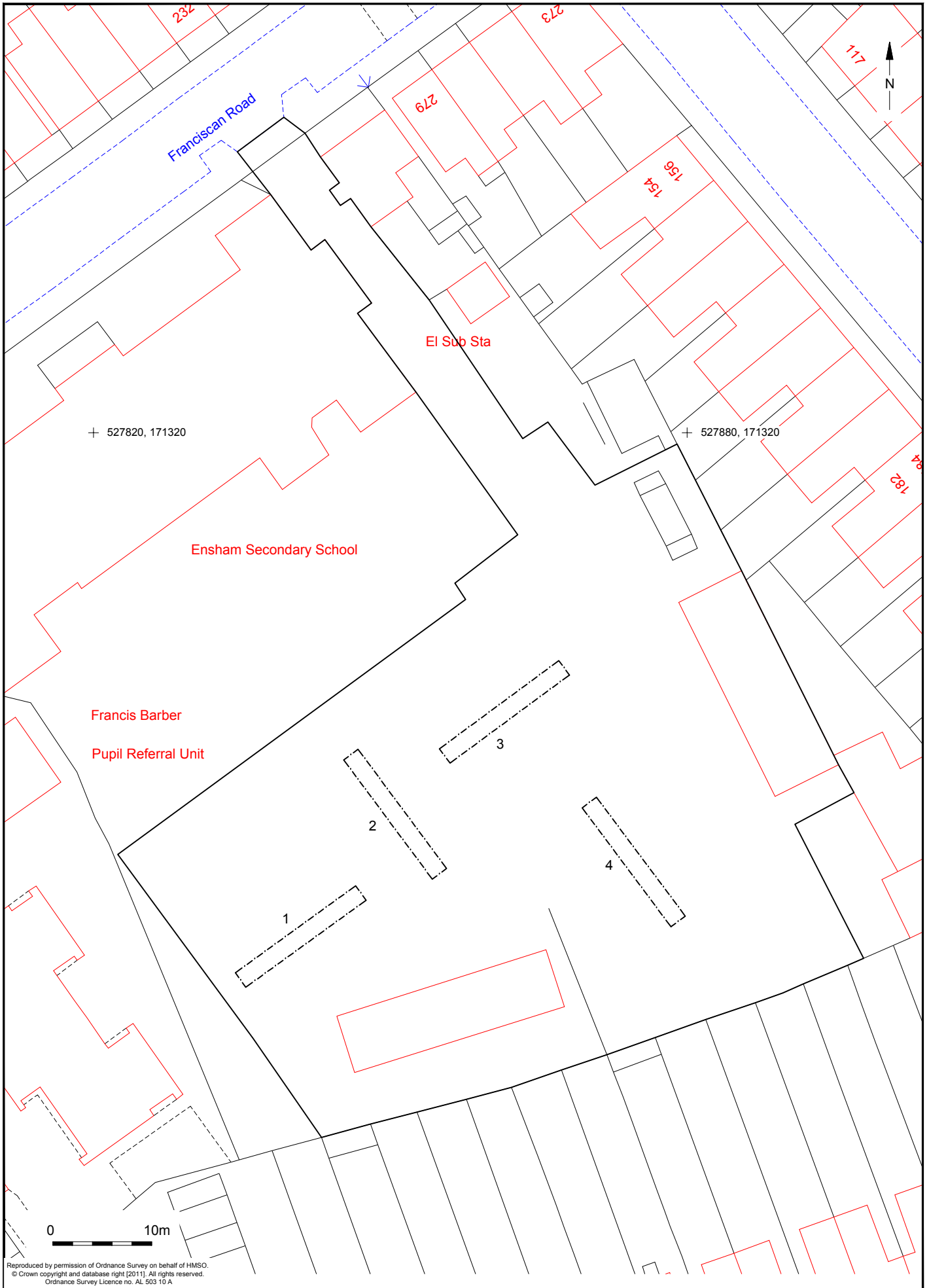
Entered by	Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	3 June 2013



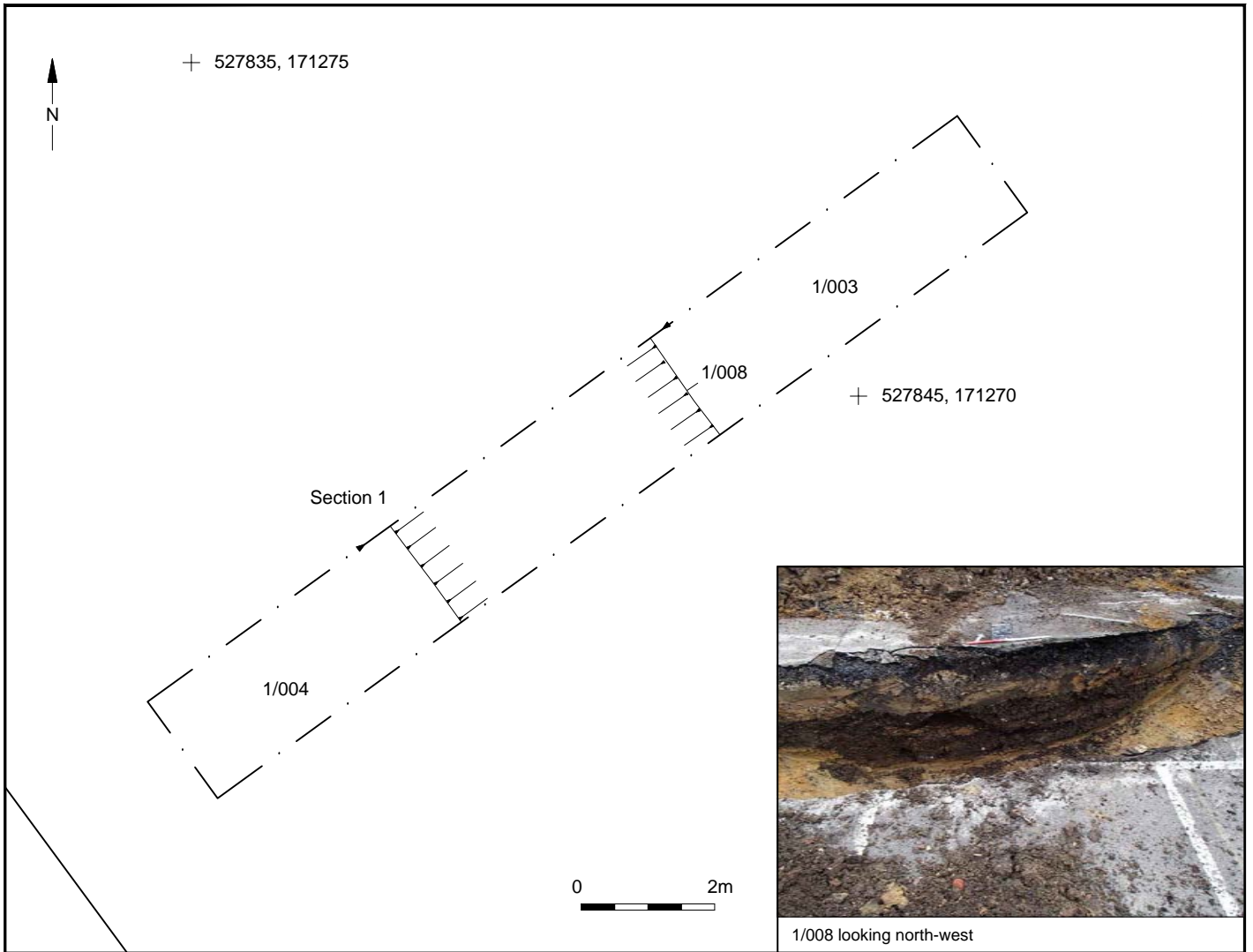


© Archaeology South-East		Franciscan Road, Tooting	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6113	June 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013144	Drawn by: JLR		

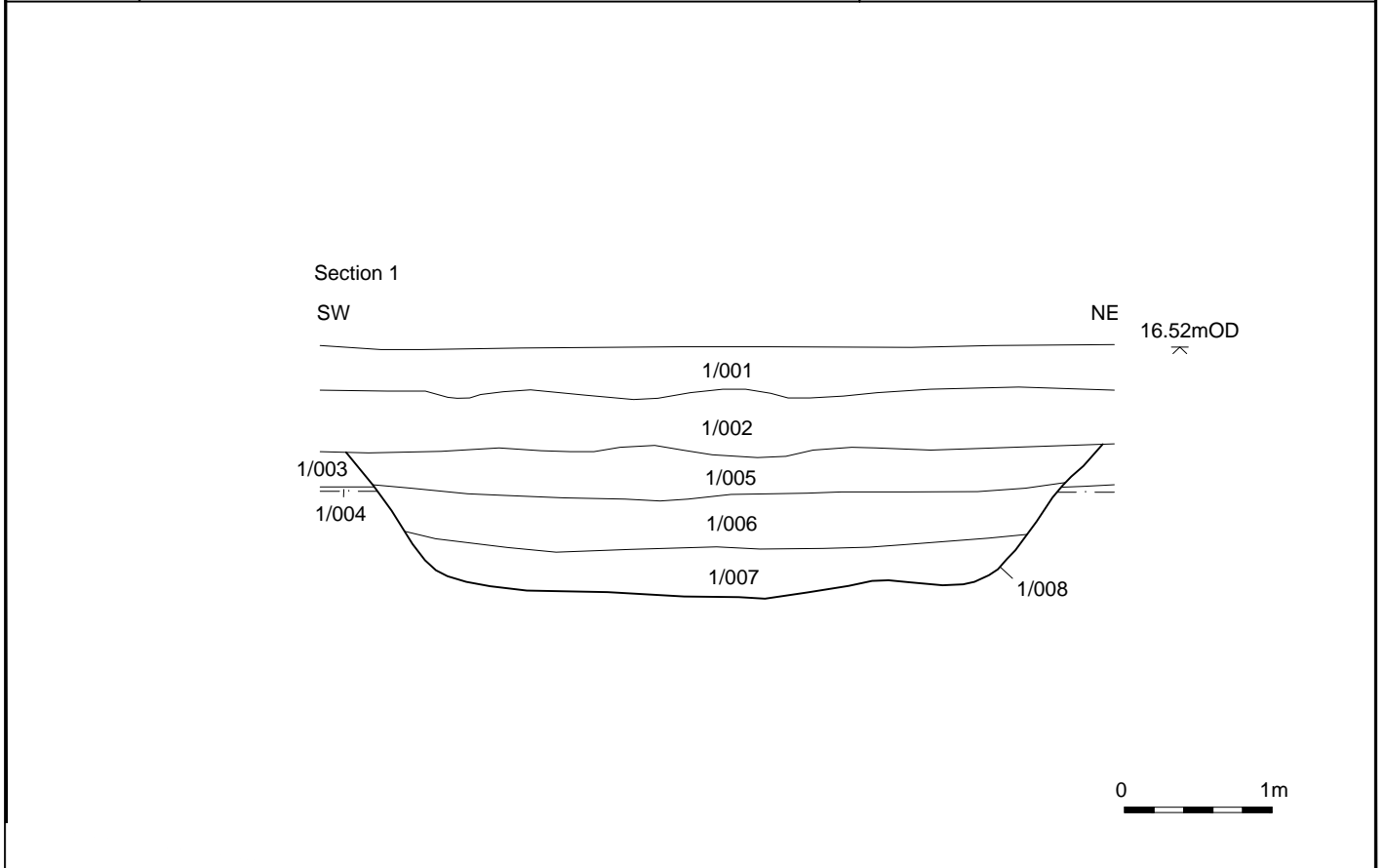




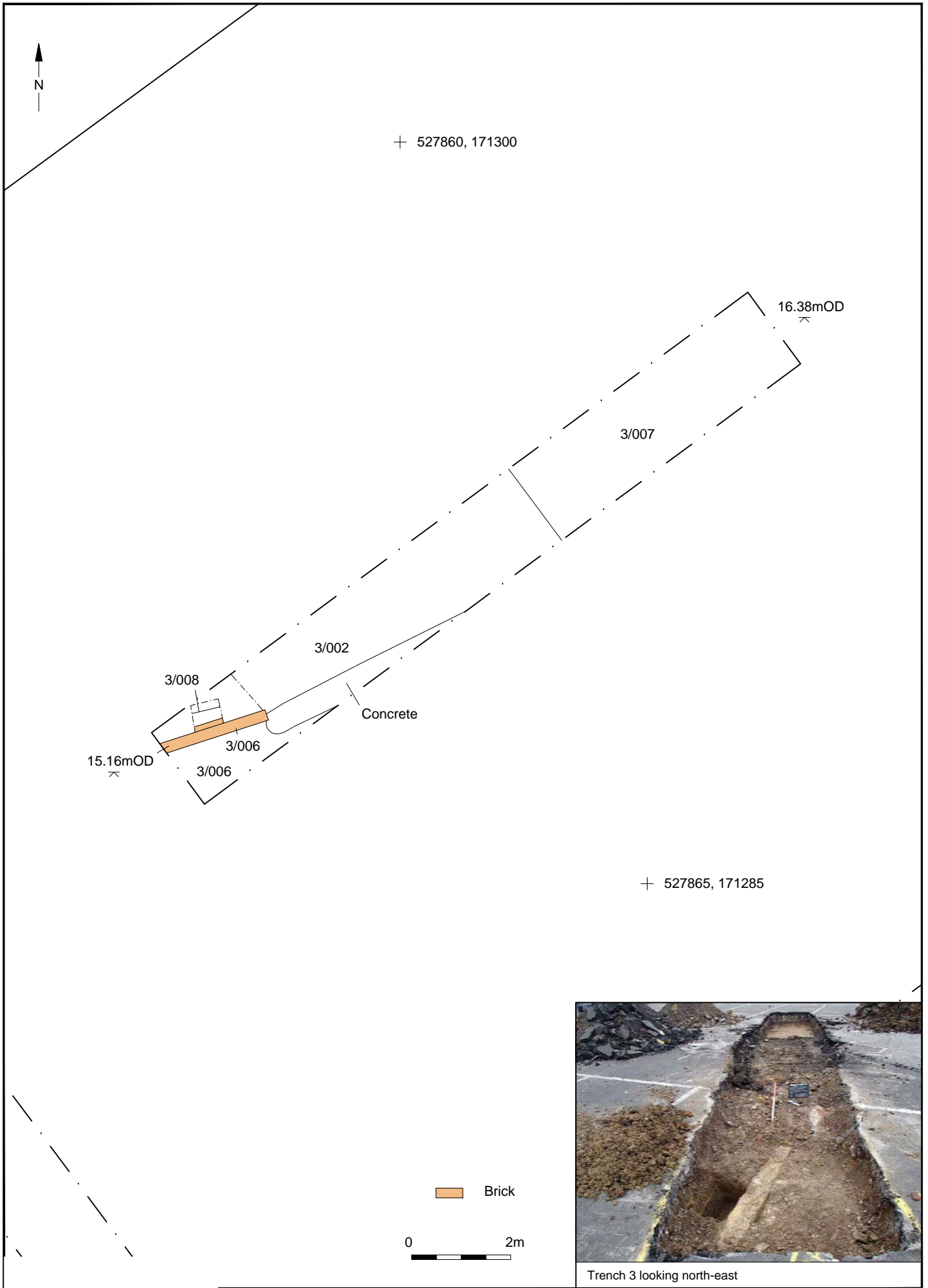
© Archaeology South-East		Franciscan Road, Tooting	Fig. 2
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1/008 looking north-west



		Franciscan Road, Tooting	Fig. 3
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		Franciscan Road, Tooting	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 6113	June 2013	Trench 3: plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013144	Drawn by: JLR		

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