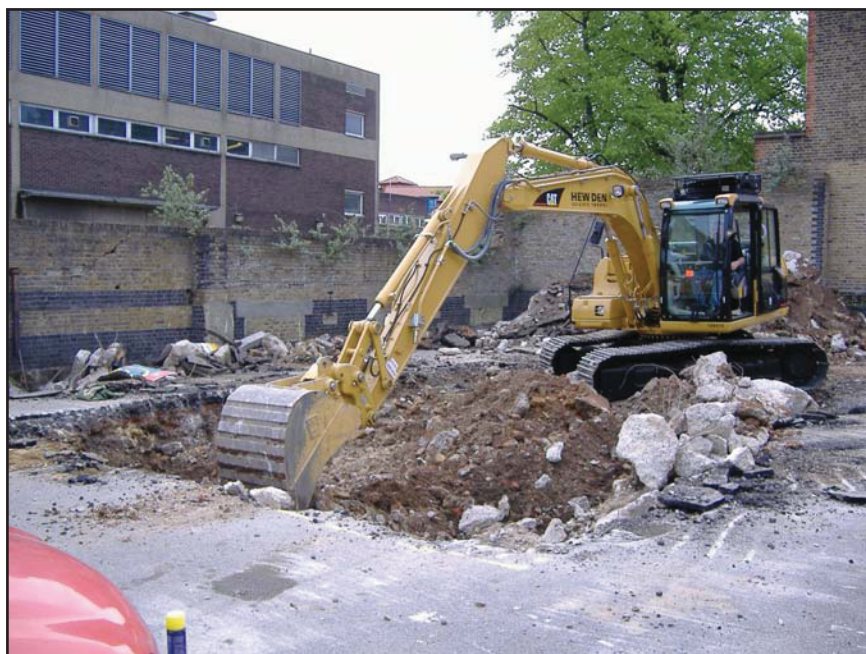


**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Walker Place  
and Felsham Road, Putney,  
London Borough of Wandsworth. SW15.**

**Site code: FWP 07  
(TQ 523991 175497)**

**Project No. 2797  
Report No. 2007037**



**by  
Diccon Hart**

**May 2007**

**Abstract**

*Archaeology South East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Walker Place and Felsham Road, Putney, London SW15. The work was carried out between 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007 in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site.*

*A single stepped trench measuring 10 m by 7 m at ground level was excavated on the site to reveal natural sand between 7.11 m and 7.24 m AOD, sealed by a sequence of subsoil and topsoil. Finds recovered from the topsoil horizon indicate a 17<sup>th</sup> century date. A 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century cellar associated with a building fronting Felsham Road was encountered at the southern end of the trench and a brick soakaway was observed to the south, presumably within the back plot associated with such a building. A further cellar located towards the southern end of the trench represents the remains of a building shown on Ordnance Survey maps of 1939 and 1952. the entire sequence was capped with a concrete slab to c. 9.14 m AOD.*

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b><i>Planning Background.....</i></b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2</b>	<b><i>Aims and Objectives.....</i></b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Archaeological Background .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Archaeological Methodology .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Results.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b><i>Archaeological Stratigraphy.....</i></b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b><i>The Finds by Elke Raemen.....</i></b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Discussion.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>References.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Appendices.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8.1</b>	<b>OASIS Form.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## FIGURES

Fig. 1	Site Location
Fig. 2	Trench Location
Fig. 3	Trench Plan and Section

# 1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Walker Place and Felsham Road, Putney, London Borough of Wandsworth, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (Figure 1), (centred on NGR TQ 523991 175497). The fieldwork was carried out between 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007 in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site.

The proposed development is bounded to the north by Felsham Road to the west by residential property to the south by Gate Studio and to the east by Walker Place.

The modern ground surface across the site was recorded between 9.10 m AOD and 9.14 m AOD. Natural gravel was encountered at between 7.1 m AOD and 7.24 m AOD.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Diccon Hart (Senior Archaeologist), and Dave Atkins (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Senior Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Louise Rayner.

## 1.1 Planning Background

The proposed site was identified in the preceding *Desk Based Assessment* (CgMs 2007a), to have a low potential for the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century) periods; a low to moderate potential for the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods and a good potential for the Roman period.

Following the production of the Desk Based Assessment Diane Walls (GLAAS), acting as the Archaeological Advisor for the London Borough of Wandsworth, instructed that an Archaeological Evaluation be conducted as a condition of planning consent. In response to this CgMs Consulting Ltd produced a Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation (CgMs 2006b), to which Archaeology South-East subsequently produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2007) Both documents were duly approved by Diane Walls at GLAAS.

## 1.2 Aims and Objectives

The Aims and Objectives of the evaluation were laid out in the Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation (CgMs 2007b) and are reproduced below with due acknowledgement.

- To establish the presence or otherwise of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity, any earlier or later activity,

and to define the date and nature of such activity.

- To establish the environmental context of any Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity, together with any earlier and/or later activity.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.
- 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.
- 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 affect of the proposed development should also be considered.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

For a full discussion of the site's archaeological background please refer to the preceding Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2006a).

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

The trench layout was agreed prior to the evaluation between CgMs Consulting Ltd and GLAAS (Diane Walls) and was designed to provide a representative sample of the redevelopment area not truncated by previous activity (see Figure 2). The evaluation consisted of one 10m by 7m stepped trench. The precise location of the trench was agreed in advance with CgMs Consulting Ltd (Richard Meager).

The trench was excavated using a 13T tracked machine. The machine was fitted with a smooth grading bucket and the trenches were excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern (19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century) made ground in spits of no more than 0.25m until archaeological deposits or the top of the underlying natural sediments was reached. Care was taken so that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining.

All recording was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards according to the UCLFAU Fieldwork Manual (draft) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2007).

The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the archaeologist in order to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

A photographic record of the trenches was kept in both Black and White and Colour Slide film, as well as digitally.

The trenches were levelled in relation to an Ordnance Survey Datum (Bench Mark of 8.10 m AOD on the northeast Corner of the White Horse Pub).

The trench was measured to known points and reproduced on a site plan in relation to the Ordnance Survey (see Fig 2).

A Trench record sheet was filled out for the trench and measured sketch sections were produced. Standard UCLFAU context record sheets were filled in for each archaeological deposit encountered.

An online OASIS form was filled out for the site, a copy of which is reproduced as an appendix to this document.

The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South East office in Ditchling and will be offered to The London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) in due course. All finds are the property of the landowner, but will be donated to a suitable museum.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Archaeological Stratigraphy

(Fig 2 and 3)

Natural geology, comprising fine mid yellow sand (014) was encountered between 7.11 m AOD and 7.24 m AOD. This was sealed by a layer of subsoil, comprising mid brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles (003). This layer measured up to 0.40 m deep and was in turn overlain by a layer of topsoil, which consisted of dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and pebbles (002). Pottery and clay pipe fragments recovered from the topsoil (002) are of a later 17<sup>th</sup> century date though these may be residual finds.

These layers were truncated to the north through the insertion of a brick cellar, presumably relating to a building that fronted Felsham Road. This consisted of a rectangular brick structure measuring 5.20 m in length. The walls of the cellar (006) were built largely of 19<sup>th</sup> century yellow stock bricks, bonded with a hard lime mortar. No particular bond was evident in the build. Occasional use of red un-frogged bricks was also noted although these probably represent re-used material. The structure was built within a large rectangular construction cut [004], backfilled with mid brown sandy silt containing frequent fragments of post-medieval peg-tile (005). The cellar itself was backfilled with rubble demolition debris (007). Due to the location of this cellar close to the limit of excavation it did not prove possible to ascertain the full depth of the structure, though partial excavation of the construction cut was sufficient to demonstrate that the cellar extended below the level of the natural sand (014).

A small circular brick soakaway that also truncated layers (003) and (002) was observed to the south of cellar (006) and presumably stood in the back plot of the building represented by the cellar. This feature consisted of a sub-circular construction cut [011], in which a circular brick lining of re-used red un-frogged bricks was built (013). A single fill of dark grey silty sand was recorded.

A further cellar was noted towards the southern end of the trench. This consisted of a substantial cellar wall (010) built with blue engineering bricks bonded with a hard lime mortar and treated with tanking on the external or southern face. A concrete floor (016) was observed within the cellar at a level of c. 7.04 m AOD, beneath which the natural sand (014) was encountered. The cellar was built within a large construction cut [008], backfilled with dark grey sandy silt (009). The cellar was backfilled with demolition debris (015).

The sequence described above was capped with a concrete slab and associated makeup (001) to a level of 9.14 m AOD.



## 4.2 The Finds by Elke Raemen

### Spot Dates

- (002) Later C17th
- (005) Later post-medieval (tile only)
- (006) Mid/late C19th – early 20th

The archaeological work uncovered a small assemblage of finds (Table 1).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Clay Pipe	Weight (g)
(002)	3	220	2	320	2	14
(005)			4	882		
(006)			2	4160		

Table 1. Summary of the finds of the excavations at FWP07

The pottery from the site is all from the topsoil horizon (002). The material consists of large unabraded sherds suggesting it has not been subject to reworking. Two pieces of glazed red earthenware were recovered. One of these is from an internally glazed large bowl, while the other one is from a small, overall glazed jug. Both pieces are well made and well fired. The third sherd is from a Frechen Bellarmine jug of 17th century type. This context also includes two unabraded clay pipe stem fragments dating to the mid to late 17th century.

The ceramic building material (CBM) from (002) consists of well fired roof tile fragments, measuring 12 to 13 mm thick, tempered with moderate fine sand and occasional iron oxide inclusions to 1 mm. These are in keeping with the dating of the pottery from this deposit. Other CBM was recovered from construction backfill (005) and cellar wall (006). Fill (005) produced four pieces of peg tile with thick adhering lime mortar mixed with moderate chalk to 5 mm and occasional coal inclusions to 1mm. The mortar is adhering to both sides of some tiles, suggesting they might have been used in wall construction. The tiles themselves, measuring 11 to 12 mm thick, are hard fired and tempered with sparse fine sand with occasional chalk inclusions to 2mm.

One complete and one fragmentary brick were recovered from cellar wall (006). The complete example, which measures 230 by 95 by 65mm, is frogged and has stacking marks on one side. It is a hard fired yellow brick with clinker inclusions to 10mm. It has a light grey lime mortar adhering and one face has been white washed. The other brick is in a lower fired abundant sand tempered fabric and does not appear to have a frog. It measures 106mm wide by 54mm high. The mortar adhering to it is similar to the mortar on the complete example. A 19th-century date is probable for both pieces.

The assemblage does not hold any potential for further analysis.

## 5 DISCUSSION

The results of this investigation are notable in that no Roman activity was defined whatsoever. This is perhaps a little surprising, given the wealth of Roman finds elsewhere in the vicinity of the site (CgMs 2007a: 7-9). The bulk of the Roman activity in the area, however, appears to relate to a small agricultural settlement centred some 400 m to the northwest of the subject site (CgMs *ibid.*) and the absence of Roman finds here suggests that the site is peripheral to any such settlement.

The absence of Roman material aside, the results of this investigation may be seen to generally accord well with those of the previous Desk Based Assessment of the site (CgMs *ibid.*). The undeveloped character of the site during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, as shown on Nicholas Lane's survey of 1636 is borne out by the presence of topsoil (002) and the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century cellar (006) corresponds well with contemporary mapping that shows buildings fronting Felsham Road at this time. The absence of any 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings, as shown on maps such as Roque's map of 1745 is perhaps a little curious but is quite possible that the remains of any such buildings have been destroyed by later development along the street frontage.

Finally, the rectangular building shown to occupy the southerly part of the site on the London County Council Revised Ordnance Survey Map of 1936-1939 is represented by the cellar wall (010) and floor (016).

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeology South-East would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd (Richard Meager) for commissioning the work.

## **7 REFERENCES**

ASE 2007: *Land at Walker Place and Felsham Road, Putney, London. SW15. Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpub. report.

CgMs 2007a: *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Land at Walker Place and Felsham Road, Putney, London. SW15*. CgMs unpub report.

CgMs 2007b: *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation. Land at Walkers Place and Felsham Road, Putney London SW15*. CgMs unpub report.

## 8 APPENDICES

### 8.1 OASIS Form

#### Printable version

### 8.2 OASIS ID: archaeol6-26881

#### Project details

Project name Land at Walker Place and Felsham Road

Short description of the project A single stepped trench measuring 10 m by 7 m at ground level was excavated on the site to reveal natural sand between 7.11 m and 7.24 m AOD, sealed by a sequence of subsoil and topsoil. Finds recovered from the topsoil horizon indicate a 17th century date. A 19th to early 20th century cellar associated with a building fronting Felsham Road was encountered at the southern end of the trench and a brick soakaway was observed to the south, presumably within the back plot associated with such a building. A further cellar located towards the southern end of the trench represents the remains of a building shown on Ordnance Survey maps of 1939 and 1952. The entire sequence was capped with a concrete slab to c. 9.14 m AOD.

Project dates Start: 26-04-2007 End: 27-04-2007

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes FWP 07 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 2797 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type CELLAR Post Medieval

Monument type SOAKAWAY Post Medieval

Monument type CELLAR Post Medieval

Significant Finds BOWL Post Medieval

Significant Finds JUG Post Medieval

Significant Finds BRICK Post Medieval

Significant Finds TILE Post Medieval

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON WANDSWORTH PUTNEY Land at Walker Place and Felsham Road

Postcode SW15

Study area 627.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 523991 175497 50.93665339 0.169232100490 50 56 11 N 000 10 09 E Point

Height OD Min: 7.11m Max: 7.24m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager JON SYGRAVE

Project supervisor Diccon Hart

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Indigo Scott Ltd

Project archives  
Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Media available 'Spreadsheets','Text'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents 'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Walker Place and Felsham Road, Putney, London Borough of Wandsworth. SW15.

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Plate 1: Trench 1 during excavation



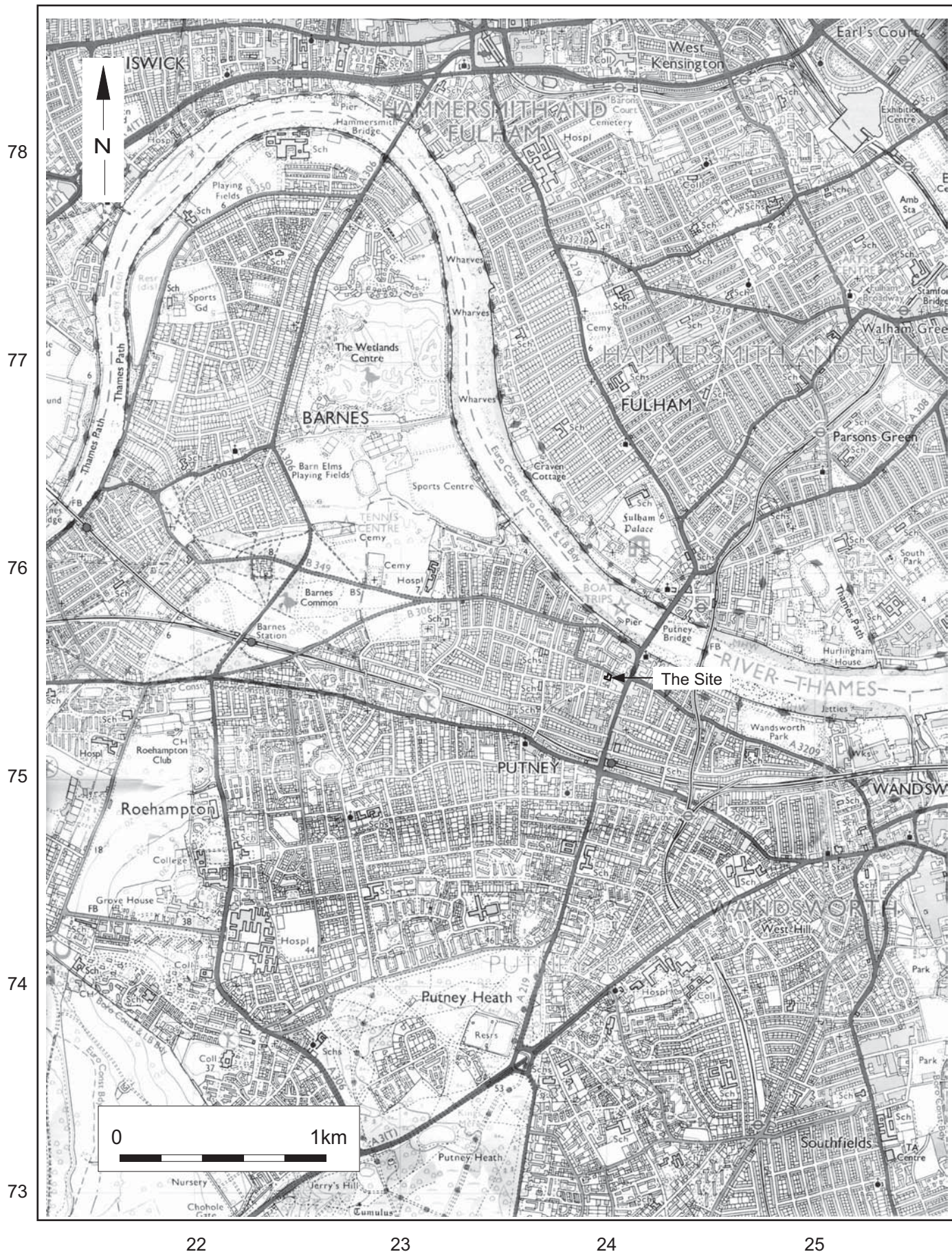
Plate 2: Basement area



Plate 3: Cellar wall [006]

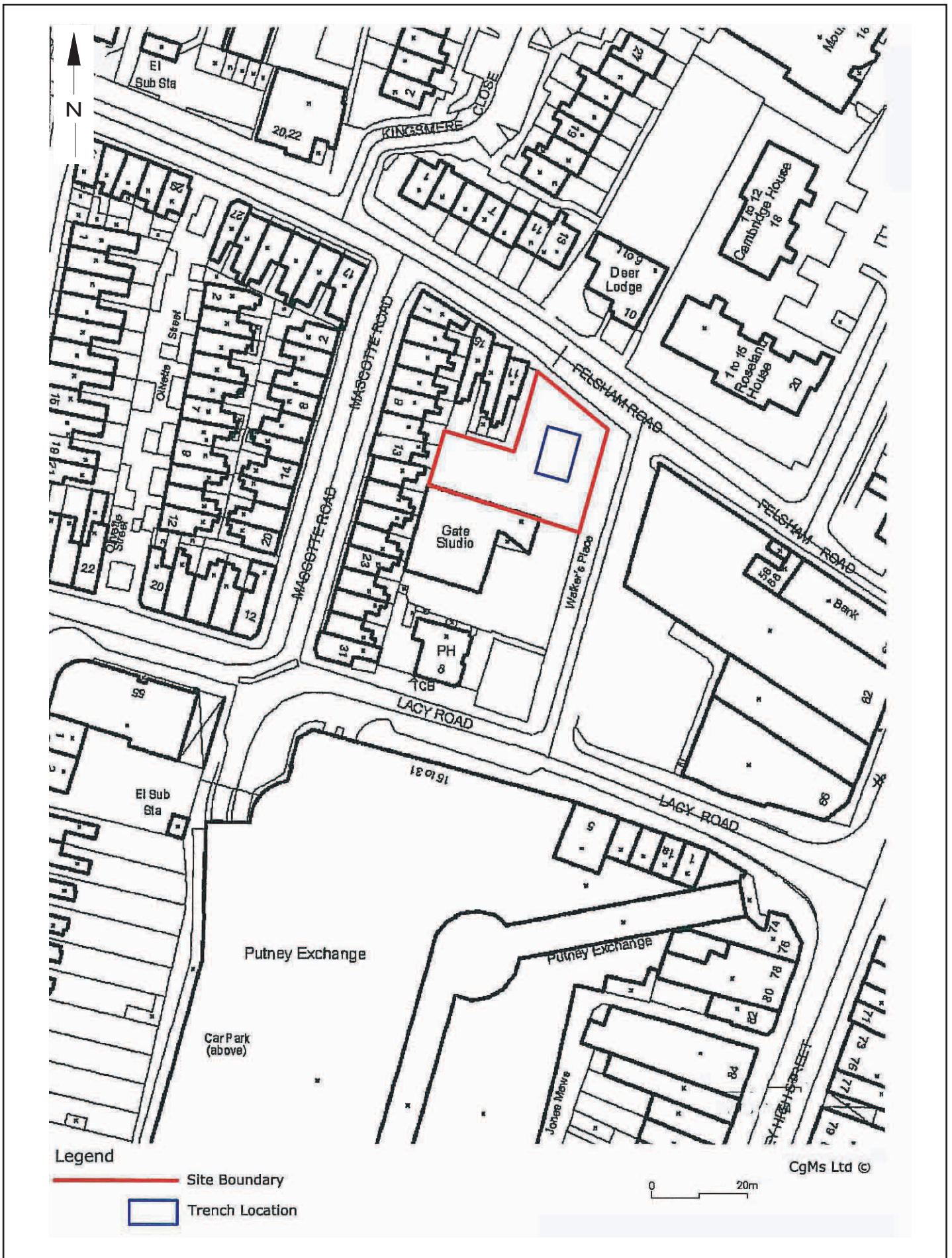


Plate 4: Trench 1 looking west

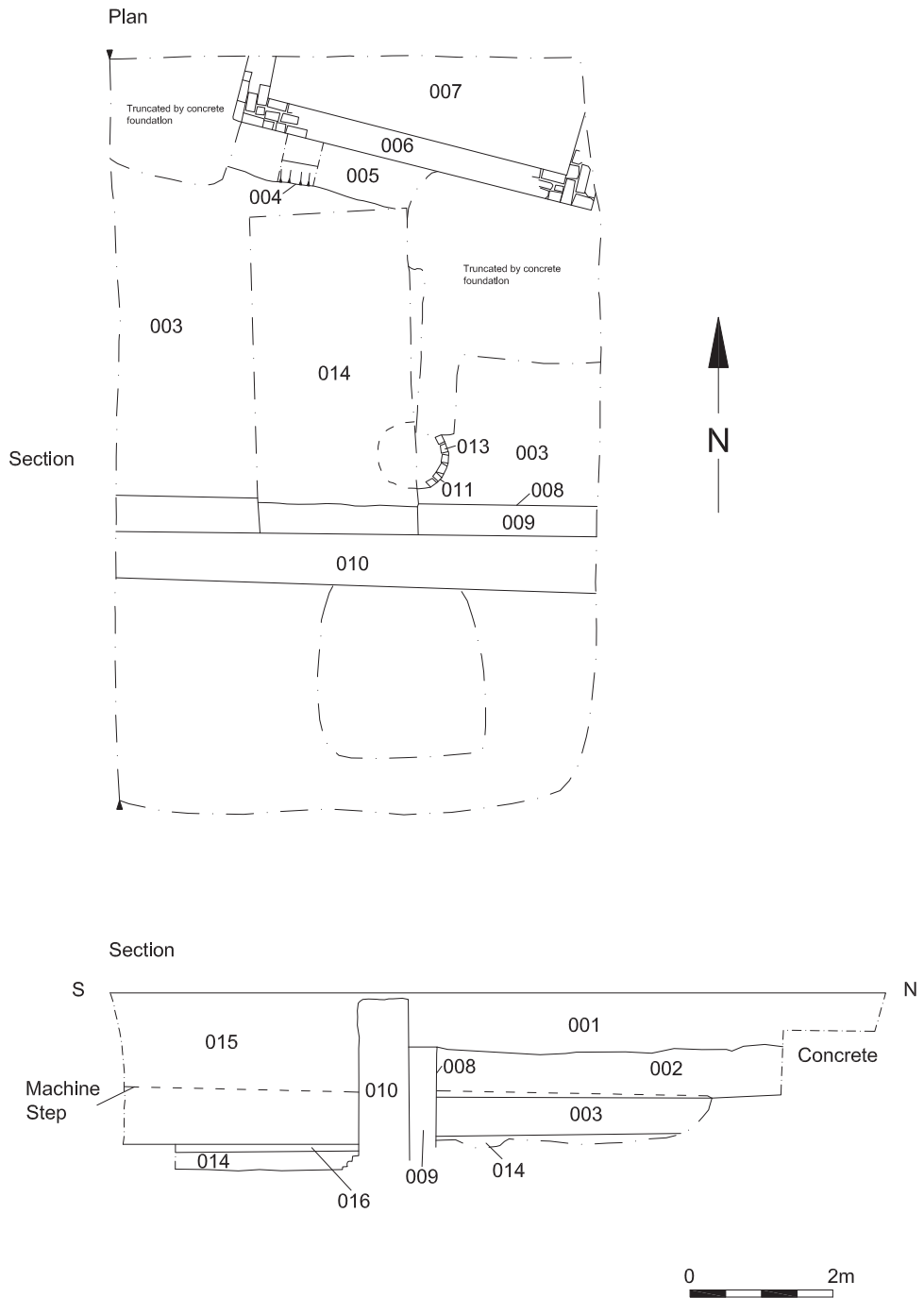


© Archaeology South-East			Felsham Road, Putney	Fig. 1
Ref: 2797	April 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	

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© Archaeology South-East		Felsham Road, Putney		Fig. 2
Ref: 2797	April 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Trench Location Plan	



© Archaeology South-East			Felsham Road, Putney	Fig.3
Ref: 2213	May 2007	Drawn by: JNC	Trench Plan and Section	

Head Office  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)



London Office  
Centre for Applied Archaeology  
Institute of Archaeology  
University College London  
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY  
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778 Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572  
Web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

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