

An Archaeological Evaluation at
290-294, Golders Green Road,
London Borough of Barnet.
NW11

Site code: GGZ 07

NGR: TQ 241 883

ASE Project no. 3165



November 2007

Prepared by David Fallon

Abstract

An Archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 290 – 294 Golder's Green Road, London Borough of Barnet, NW11 between 11th November and 13th November 2007. The works were undertaken in response to a commission from CgMS Consulting Ltd acting on behalf of their client. Two trenches measuring twenty metres long were excavated across the site.

The underlying natural London Clay interspersed with pockets of dark red brown gravels was encountered at a maximum height of 51.50m OD in the southeast of Trench One falling away to 47.00m OD in the north of Trench Two.

Two discrete archaeological features were observed and the artefact assemblage from them dates to the 18th or 19th centuries. These include a north south aligned linear feature in Trench One and a small 18th or 19th century pit in Trench Two. However, a more complete analysis of the character, extent and exact date of the archaeological remains was prevented by the restrictive nature of the fieldwork and contamination in Trench One.

The fieldwork demonstrated that, other than in the area of the modern car park to the north of the site, archaeological deposits survive undisturbed beneath a layer of topsoil to the north of the site and a layer of rubble and a brick surface to the south of the site.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1** Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, have been commissioned by CgMS Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of redevelopment on land at 290-294, Golders Green Road, London Borough of Bexley (hereafter referred to as 'The Site'). The site is centred on NGR TQ 241 883 and its location is shown in Figure 1.
- 1.2** The proposed development is bounded to the southwest by Golders Green Road and to the southeast by Princes Park Avenue and residential development. The Decoy Brook runs to the north of the site and Roman House stands to the west. The site is roughly level at around 52m AOD and is currently occupied by concrete hard standing.
- 1.3** The proposed redevelopment of the site comprises the construction of a three storey residential block, with basement and associated car parking and landscaping. Due to the location of the site within an Archaeological Priority Zone, as defined in the London Borough of Barnet's Unitary Development Plan, a programme of archaeological trenching was required in order to ascertain the archaeological potential of the site and inform on any future mitigation strategy
- 1.4** A *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation* was subsequently prepared by CgMs Consulting Ltd and submitted to Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS). Upon approval of the Specification a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by ASE and submitted to CgMs Consulting Ltd for onward submission to GLAAS for approval.
- 1.5** This document represents an Evaluation Report prepared by ASE. All work was carried out in accordance with the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) *Archaeological Guidance Paper No.3* (AGP3) and complies fully with the standards of archaeological fieldwork as employed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 1.6** David Fallon carried out the fieldwork between the 11th of November and the 13th of November 2007. Diccon Hart (fieldwork) and Louise Rayner (post-excavation) managed the project.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were set out in the *Specification* issued by CgMs and are herewith summarised below with due acknowledgement.

2.2 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation was to assess the location, form, extent, date, character, condition significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the development.

2.3 The evaluation also sought to ascertain the nature and extent of existing disturbance and truncation and thus the degree of archaeological survival on the site.

2.4 In addition to these general aims, this investigation also sought to address the following site specific objectives.

- To establish the presence or otherwise of medieval; post-medieval and modern and any earlier or later activity and to define the date and nature of such activity.
- To establish the environmental context of any medieval; post-medieval and modern 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.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 A unique site code (GGZ 07) was obtained from the Museum of London in advance of the fieldwork.

3.2 A total of two trenches, each measuring 20.0m in length, were excavated on the site, positioned so as to explore the archaeological potential of both the Golders Green frontage and rear of the site (Fig. 2).

3.3 The trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne mechanical excavator with a toothed bucket to break through the tarmac hard standing and a 1.80m grading bucket to excavate through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of 0.25m until archaeological deposits were encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments reached. Care was taken that the archaeological deposits were not damaged by over machining.

4.0 Excavation and Recording Techniques

- 4.1** All hand excavation was undertaken carefully and followed the stratigraphy of the archaeological features.
- 4.2** Archaeological features were sampled by half section of their fill.
- 4.3** The excavated archaeological features were planned, photographed and recorded utilising the assigned Museum of London site code. All plans and sections were drawn on plastic film at scale of 1:20 and 1:10. All site drawings have been digitised.
- 4.7** A full photographic record was made and comprised monochrome prints, colour transparencies and digital images. All photographs included a board that detailed: the Museum of London site code, date, context number, a scale and a north arrow. In addition general working shots were also taken during the pre-excavation and excavation stages to illustrate the general context, setting, location and ongoing progress of the project. All photographs will be fully indexed and cross-referenced on ASE context sheets and photographic registers.
- 4.8** All archaeological remains were levelled to Ordnance Datum using an OS bench mark. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by the UCL Field Archaeology Unit.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Trench One (see Fig.2)

5.1.1 List of Recorded Contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
101	Layer	Tarmac hardstanding	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
102	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
103	Cut	Linear	2.50m	0.90m	Not Known
104	Fill	Fill of 103	2.50m	0.90m	Not Known
105	Deposit	Brick Surface	9.60m	Tr.	0.06m
106	Layer	Rubble	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
107	Layer	Contaminated Natural	14.20m	Tr.	0.60

5.1.2 Summary

The natural geology [102], comprising London Clay to the south east and gravel to the south west, was encountered between 51.50m OD and 50.25m OD

One archaeological feature was seen to cut the surface of the natural. This was a linear feature [103] running north to south but which was not aligned with any existing property boundaries or Golder's Green Road. No detailed investigation of this feature was possible due to heavy contamination of the trench. However, approval was obtained for a mechanically excavated sondage to be excavated through the mid red brown fill [104] from which a fragment of 18th to 19th century stoneware was recovered.

Above the contaminated ground in the south west of the trench lay a modern brick surface [105]. Above this surface and the natural geology to the south east lay a layer of rubble [106] comprising fragments of brick and concrete beneath a tarmac carpark [101].

5.2 Trench Two (see Fig.2)

5.2.1 List of Recorded Contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
201	Layer	Topsoil	10.00m	Tr.	
202	Cut	Pit Cut	0.48m	0.34m	0.25m
203	Fill	Fill of 202	0.48m	0.34m	0.25m
204	Layer	Natural Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
205	Layer	Modern Levelling	10.00m	Tr.	0.03m
206	Layer	Make-Up	10.00m	Tr.	0.10m

5.2.2 Summary

Trench Two cut across an extant fence line (see Fig.2) and live electrical services. A 3.00m break in the centre of the trench was left to avoid these services (see Fig.3).

The natural geology [204], comprising London clays to the south and gravels to the north, was encountered between 48.80m OD and 47.00m OD

One archaeological feature was seen to cut the surface of the natural geology. This consisted of a small pit at the south end of the trench.

The pit was sub-circular in plan and had a 'U'-shaped profile with steep, straight sides and an irregular concave base [202]. The pit had a

single homogenous fill of dark black brown clay silt with a moderate amount of small charcoal flecks, iron objects and fragments of window and bottle glass [203]. The artefact assemblage from this feature has been dated to the 18th – 19th centuries.

At the north end of the trench the natural geology [204] was overlain by a type two aggregate make up layer [206] which was itself overlain by a sand levelling layer [205].

At the southern end of the trench black clay silt topsoil [201] lay above the natural geology [204]. Some bioturbation had taken place with flecks of charcoal and brick having been pressed into the top of the natural subsoil from the topsoil.

6.0 THE FINDS by Trista Clifford

The evaluation at Golders Green Road produced a small collection of finds, quantified in Table 1 below.

Context	Pottery	weight (g)	CBM	weight (g)	Stone	weight (g)	Iron	weight (g)	Glass	weight (g)
104	1	108	1	30	/	/	/	/	/	/
201	5	20	/	/	/	/	/	/	2	116
203	5	10	6	166	1	2	7	70	10	18
Total Weight	11	138	7	196	1	2	7	70	12	134

Table 1: Quantification of finds

6.1 Pottery

Eleven pot sherds weighing 138g were recovered from three separate contexts. [104] contained a base sherd from a 18th to early 19th century London salt-glazed stoneware bottle. Context [201] contained a sherd from a blue transfer ware plate and several white china fragments. Context [203] contained 18th-19th century unglazed red earthenwares, along with glazed white china, which are undiagnostic of form.

6.2 CBM

A small assemblage of seven fragments weighing 196g was recovered from two contexts. Fill [104] contained a single piece of tile in a hard fired fine sandy fabric. Fill [203] contained three high fired tile fragments in a slightly coarser sandy fabric, one of which has occasional iron rich inclusions up to 7mm.

Three pieces, probably from the same brick, were also recovered. The fabric is well fired coarse sand, mixed red and yellow clays, with poorly sorted iron rich seams and ?chalk inclusions up to 9mm. The CBM is of similar date to the pottery: 18-19th century.

6.2 Iron

Five probable nail fragments, an amorphous lump and a possible ring fitting, RF<1> were recovered from [203].

The assemblage is in a poor state of preservation, and is likely to be consistent in date with the pottery from the same context

6.4 Stone

A single fragment of roofing slate was recovered from [203]

6.5 Glass

Glass was collected from Topsoil [201] and Fill [203].

The glass assemblage is predominated by clear window glass fragments. A base from a green glass bottle with a low kick was recovered from [201]. This is probably 19th century in date.

6.6 The assemblage holds no potential for further work and may be discarded.

7.0 DISCUSSION

This programme of works has demonstrated the presence of discrete archaeological remains within the study area. Establishing the exact character, extent and date of these remains was frustrated by the restrictive nature of the fieldwork, as well as the contamination in Trench One. However, the results of this investigation do allow some useful if general, observations to be made regarding the archaeology within the study area and the extent to which the fieldwork can be seen to have fulfilled the original aims of the investigation as set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*.

These remains have been dated as being either 18th or 19th century. That the feature in Trench Two and the topsoil were of this date is certain. However, the mechanical method of recovery of the stoneware from the linear feature in Trench One means that caution should be taken when attributing this artefact to this context.

Undisturbed natural was encountered at between 0.25m and 0.35m below current ground level. Across the majority of the site any archaeological remains cut into the natural subsoil are likely to survive undisturbed and any reduction below this level is likely to have a high impact on any archaeological features present. The exception to this being to the north of Trench Two where the results from the excavation indicated that during the construction of a car park there was a

significant reduction of the natural subsoil and it is unlikely, but not certain, that any archaeology in this area has been truncated severely.

The extent of the contamination in the south east of the study area, Trench One, is unknown. Therefore the impact of it on the archaeology is difficult to determine. However, there is archaeology in this area and beneath the rubble layer and the brick surface the natural geology is relatively undisturbed. The presence of underground features such as cellars associated with the site's previous use as a hostelry can not be discounted.

APPENDIX 1: OASIS SUMMARY FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol6-35066

Project details

Project name 290 - 294 Golder's Green Road NW11

Short description of the project Two trenches totalling 40.00m were machine excavated to determine the character, condition and extent of any archaeology present on this site in order to assess what if any impact future development would have upon it. Two features were observed to cut the natural geology consisting of a north south aligned linear feature and a small pit. The artefact assemblage dates to the 18th - 19th century.

Project dates Start: 11-11-2007 End: 13-11-2007

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes GGZ 07 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

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

Methods & techniques 'Targeted Trenches'

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

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Pre-application

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON BARNET HENDON 290 - 294 Golder's Green Road

Postcode	NW11
Study area	43.60 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 241 883 51.5793951653 -0.208791086014 51 34 45 N 000 12 31 W Point
Height OD	Min: 47.00m Max: 51.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeologist
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Diccon Hart
Project supervisor	David Fallon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

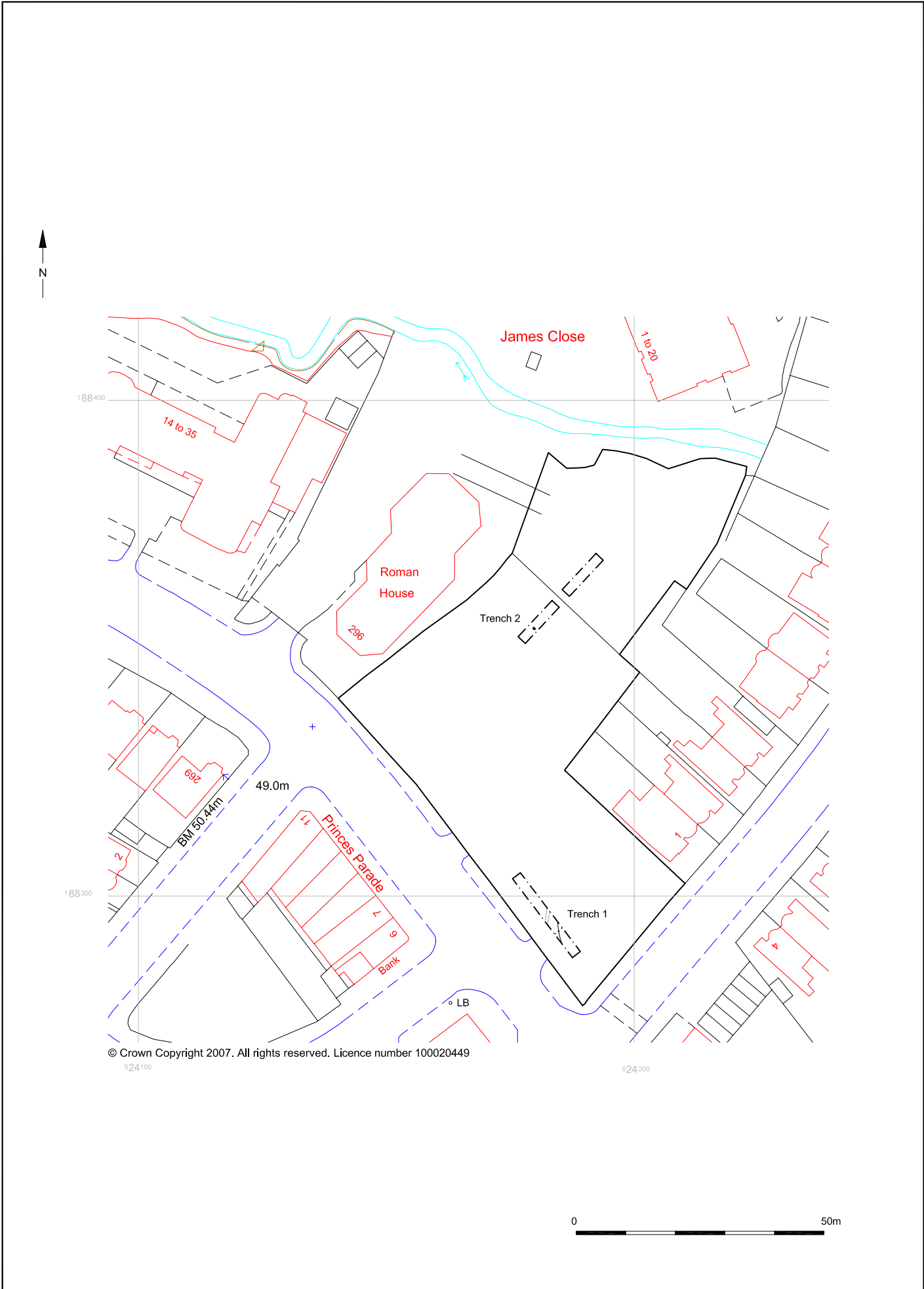
Physical Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'

Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at 290 -294 Golder's Green Road, London Borough of Barnet NW11
Author(s)/Editor(s)	David Fallon
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex

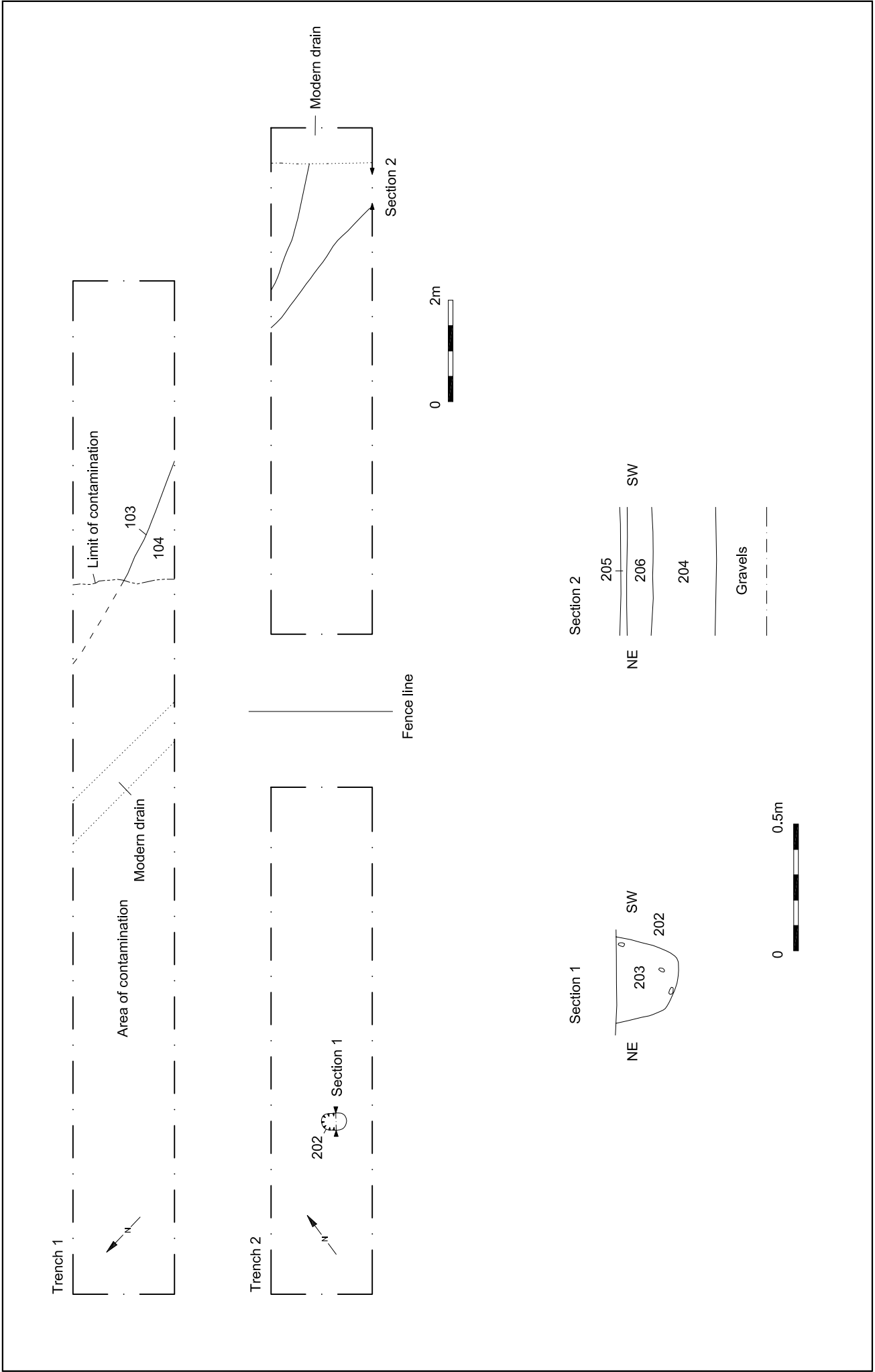
Entered by	David Fallon (d.fallon@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	29 November 2007



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© Archaeology South-East			290-294, Golders Green Road, London	Fig. 2
Ref: 3165	Nov 2007	Drawn by: SM/JLR	Trench Location Plan	



© Archaeology South-East		290-294 Golders Green Road	
Ref: 3165	Nov 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Trench plans and sections

Fig. 3



Plate 1: Trench 1, from east



Plate 2: Brick surface trench 1, from west



Plate 3: Fragment of linear [103], from south



Plate 4: Contamination, trench 1



Plate 5: North facing section



Plate 6: North end of trench 2



Plate 7: South end of trench 2



Plate 8: [202] Pre-ex



Plate 9: [202] half section

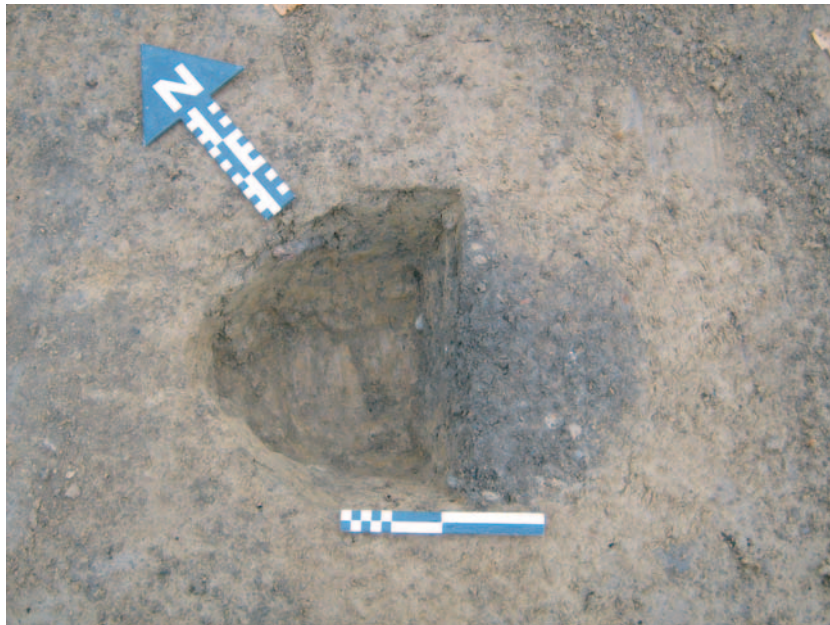


Plate 10: [202] plan