

**Archaeological Investigations at Langley Park
Carpark Site: Summary Report**

ASE Project No. 4170

April 2010

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Introduction

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological excavation in advance of development on land at the site of a proposed underground spa at Langley Park, Buckinghamshire, hereafter referred to as 'the car park site' (centred NGR TQ 00909 81613), (Fig. 1).

Previous archaeological investigations at the site (Stage 1: archaeological evaluation) revealed late 16th to early 18th century features within the area of the car park/ underground spa site (Collie 2007, Hart 2007). On the basis of these findings the archaeological excavation (Stage 2) was carried out. A brief for this work was prepared by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS, 2010), followed by a detailed Written Scheme of Excavation (WSI), prepared by ASE (Thorne 2010).

The current document is a brief summary outlining the broad character and date of the archaeological remains uncovered during the Stage 2 archaeological excavations at the car park site. A detailed report will be completed in due course.

Methodology

The excavation area (294m²) is shown on Figure 2. The excavation area was machine stripped using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist.

Results

Modern disturbance was extensive, the site area being reduced due to the presence of high voltage cables linked to a substation. Truncation of the underlying gravels was also apparent during excavation.

The archaeological remains uncovered were post-medieval in date, ranging from late 16th to 19th centuries and were typified by features associated with drainage and water management. Most features were dated from ceramic building material, however much of this material was fragmentary and abraded and may be residual. Only a small amount of post-medieval pottery was recovered (21 sherds from six contexts).

Phase 1 (16th -18th Centuries)

The earliest features encountered were broadly dated by CBM from the late 16th to early 18th centuries and comprised a ditch orientated roughly north-south, ([119], [121], [123]) a posthole or small pit, [117], and a shallow semi-circular cut [125] that was interpreted as the possible remains of a garden feature. These features are

thought to be either related to the earlier 17th century house built by Sir John Kederminster or to the construction of the present Langley Park House.

Phase 2 (18th-19th Centuries)

The next phase of archaeological remains was dated to the 18th to 19th centuries and comprised a further ditch-like feature, [107] and [109], that as well as producing CBM of this date also incorporated earlier material within its fill. It is thought to be either related to the construction of the present building and is possibly derived from demolition or 'robbing out' of a feature related to the previous house. Brick built culverts related to this phase were also encountered. Orientated on a north south and east west axis these are probably the same structures as those shown within this area of the site on the 1778 plan of Langley Park House.

A brick built soakaway, [135], was situated on the eastern baulk of the site and fed by means of a small culvert or drain into a well built, brick, probable 'silt trap', [130].

The potential cellar wall remains encountered during the evaluation stage were seen to be in a very poor state of preservation during the excavation. The brick rubble possibly derived from the demolished and back filled cellar were seen to be extending into the southeastern baulk however no further features associated with this probable structure were encountered (not shown on plan).

A small probable posthole, [103], situated on the northern edge of the site was also dated to this phase.

In addition to the above provisionally phased archaeology two undated postholes, [105] and [1143] and a pit, [115], were also encountered within the southern half of the site.

References

Archaeology South-East, April 2010

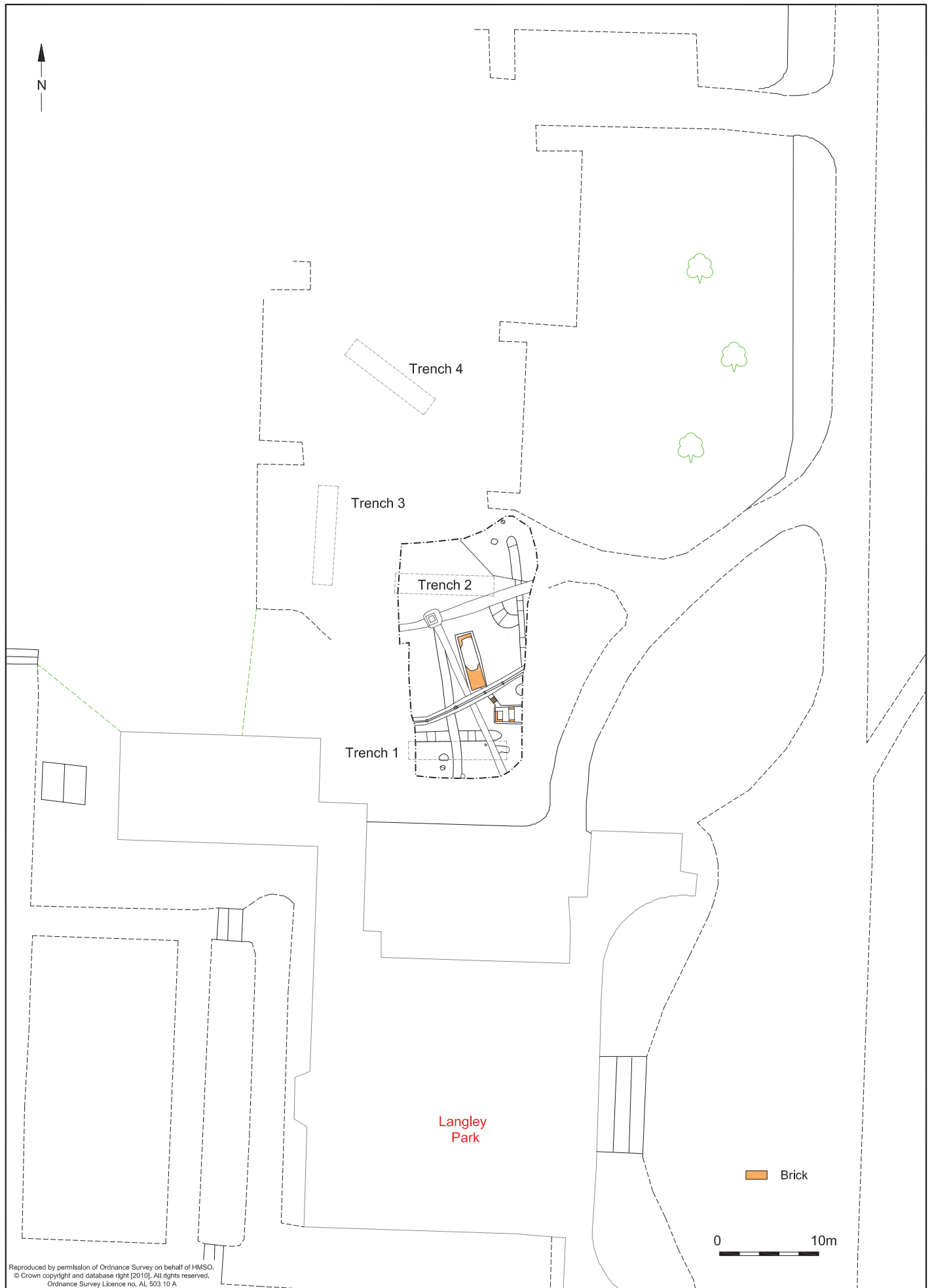
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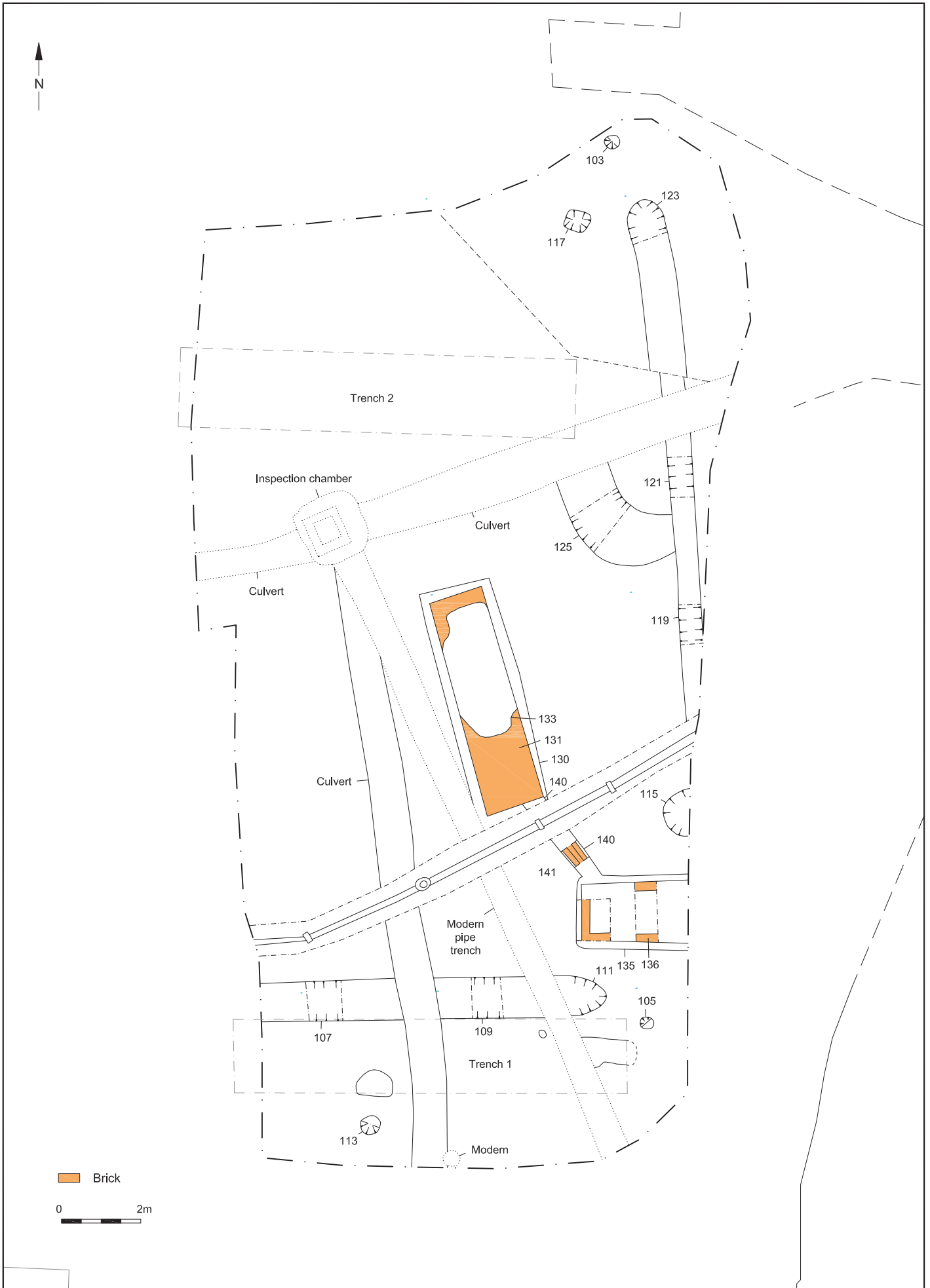
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© Archaeology South-East		Langley Park	Fig. 2
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© Archaeology South-East		Langley Park	Fig. 3
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