

**Becketts Wharf, Hampton Wick,
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames**

An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code LTK06

(TQ 1766 6963)

**Becketts Wharf, Hampton Wick,
London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for The Offer Group Ltd

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LTK 06

August 2006

Summary

Site name: Becketts Wharf, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

Grid reference: TQ 1766 6963

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 7th-8th August 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: LTK 06

Area of site: 0.19 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed. Parts of the site had been truncated in relatively recent times

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at The Museum of London in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 15.09.06 Steve Preston✓ 11.09.06

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Report 06/64

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out Becketts Wharf, Lower Teddington Road, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames (TQ 1766 6963) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Timothy Offer of The Offer Group Limited and Threshold Land and Estates Ltd, Burgoine House, 8 Lower Teddington Road, Hampton Wick, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 4ER.

Planning permission (05/1058/FUL) has been gained from the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames to redevelop the site for a mixed scheme comprising both social and private housing and offices. This consent is subject to a condition (5) relating to archaeology, which requires a programme of archaeological work on the site prior to the development.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Mark Stevenson, Archaeology Adviser with the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Tudor Skinner on the 7th August 2006 and the site code is LTK 06. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at The Museum of London in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of Becketts Place, between the River Thames and Lower Teddington Road, Hampton Wick (Fig. 1). The site is a relatively flat plot of land and is currently occupied by redundant warehouses and associated offices. The underlying geology consisted of third River Terrace gravel (BGS 1981), which was observed during the evaluation and the site lies at a height of approximately 7.30m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location along the margins of the River Thames, a zone regarded as archaeologically rich (MoLAS 2000). Evaluation to the north-east on the former power station site

revealed some prehistoric activity of Neolithic date (Ford 1995) and several finds of prehistoric stone and bronze tools have been dredged from the Thames in this area, with Roman burials also recorded further to the north-east. Hampton Wick is thought to have originated in late Saxon times and developed due to the presence of Kingston Bridge. However, evaluations in the settlement have revealed little of interest (Cowie 2000; Hammond 2002).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. Specific research aims were:

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site given that parts of the site have been previously developed;

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

Two trenches were to be excavated by a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and measuring 15m long and 1.6m wide. These were to be dug under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results

The two trenches were dug in the locations shown on Figure 3. Due to space and access restrictions both trenches had to be shortened and their locations slightly moved, in consultation with the monitor.

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

This trench was 10.2m long and 1.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying concrete overlying made ground, comprising brick rubble. This was overlying a mid grey silty clay overlying gravel natural. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were present.

Trench 2 (Plate 2)

This trench was 4.5m long and 3.0m deep. The stratigraphy comprised concrete overlying made ground, comprising brick rubble and railway sleepers, a mid grey brown silty clay containing brick rubble fragments overlying natural clay (London Clay). Again, no archaeology was present. The stratigraphy in this trench which contrasts markedly with that in trench 1 just a few metres away suggests that truncation of the archaeologically relevant levels has taken place with the land subsequently backfilled in relatively recent times.

Finds

No finds of an archaeological nature were retrieved.

Conclusion

The evaluation failed to identify any deposits or finds of an archaeological nature. The area inside the existing warehouse examined by Trench 2 appears to have been highly truncated with previous removal of the natural gravel that was observed in nearby Trench 1. Any archaeological deposits that may have existed on the site will have already been truncated away in the area of Trench 2. On the basis of these results the site would appear to have very low archaeological potential

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Cowie, R, 2000, 'White Hart Public House, 1 High Street, Hampton Wick, Richmond on Thames, archaeological evaluation', Museum of London Archaeology Service, London
- Ford, S, 1995, 'Kingston Power Station, Kingston on Thames, London, Desktop Study, geoarchaeological assessment and archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 95/69 pt1, Reading
- Hammond, S, 2002, '13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 02/15, Reading
- MoLAS, 2000, *The archaeology of Greater London; an assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London*, Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph 16
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at S or W end

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.20	1.60	1.45	0.00m-0.03m Tarmac; 0.03m-0.20m concrete; 0.20m-0.35m made ground; 0.35m-1.40m mid grey silty clay; 1.40m-1.45m gravel natural. Natural at 6m AOD.
2	4.50	1.60	3.00	0.00m-0.30m concrete; 0.30m-0.80m made ground; 0.80m-2.60m mid grey brown silty clay; 2.60m-3.00m clay natural. Natural at 4.80m AOD.

APPENDIX 2: OASiS Summary Form

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OASIS ID: thamesva1-18310

Project details

Project name	Becketts Wharf, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames
Short description of the project	Two trench evaluation at Becketts Wharf, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames. The evaluation did not reveal any deposits or finds of an archaeological nature
Project dates	Start: 07-08-2006 End: 07-08-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	05/1058/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	LTK 06/64 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LTK 06 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES RICHMOND UPON THAMES Becketts Wharf, Hampton Wick
Study area	0.19 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 1760 6955 51.4122558706 -0.308814258929 51 24 44 N 000 18 31 W Point
Height OD	Min: 4.80m Max: 6.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment

Project design originator Steve Ford
 Project director/manager Steve Ford
 Project supervisor Andy Taylor

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive Exists? No
 Paper Archive recipient Museum of London
 Paper Archive ID LTK 06
 Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'
 Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

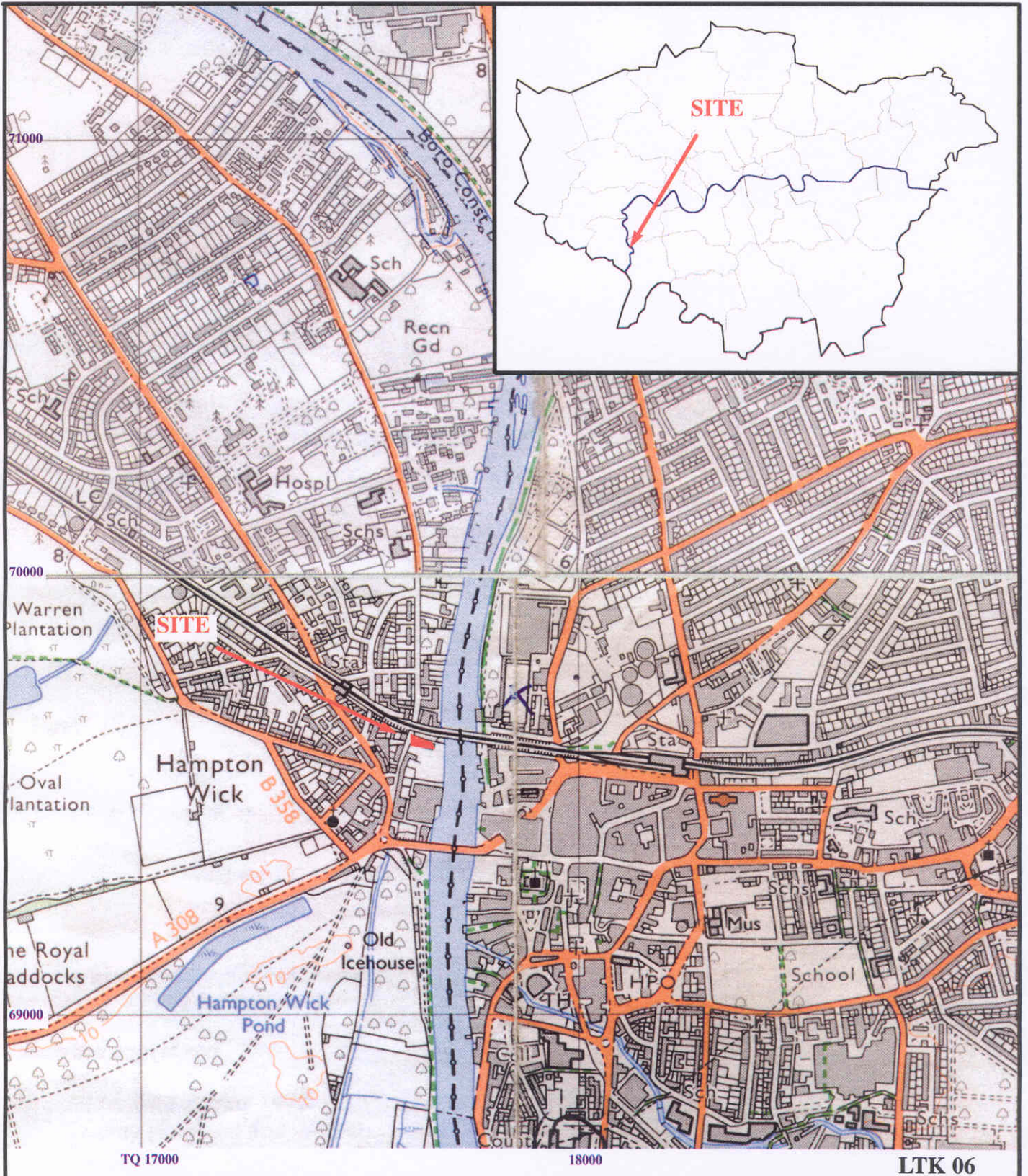
Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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of Richmond Upon Thames, 2006
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Figure 1. Location of site within Hampton Wick and
Greater London.

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1190 TQ 06/16 at 1:12500
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Figure 2. Location of site in Hampton Wick.

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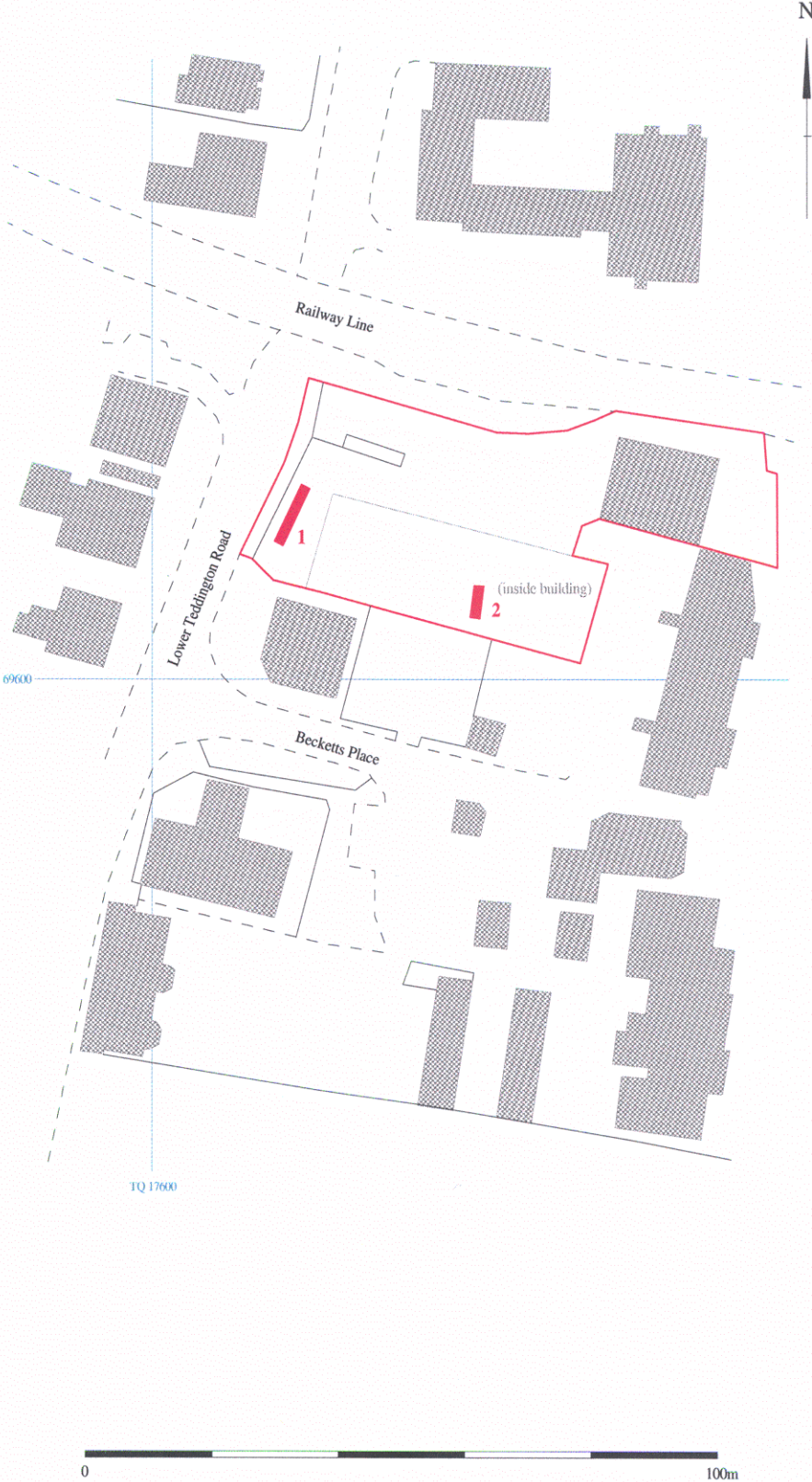


Figure 3: Trench Locations

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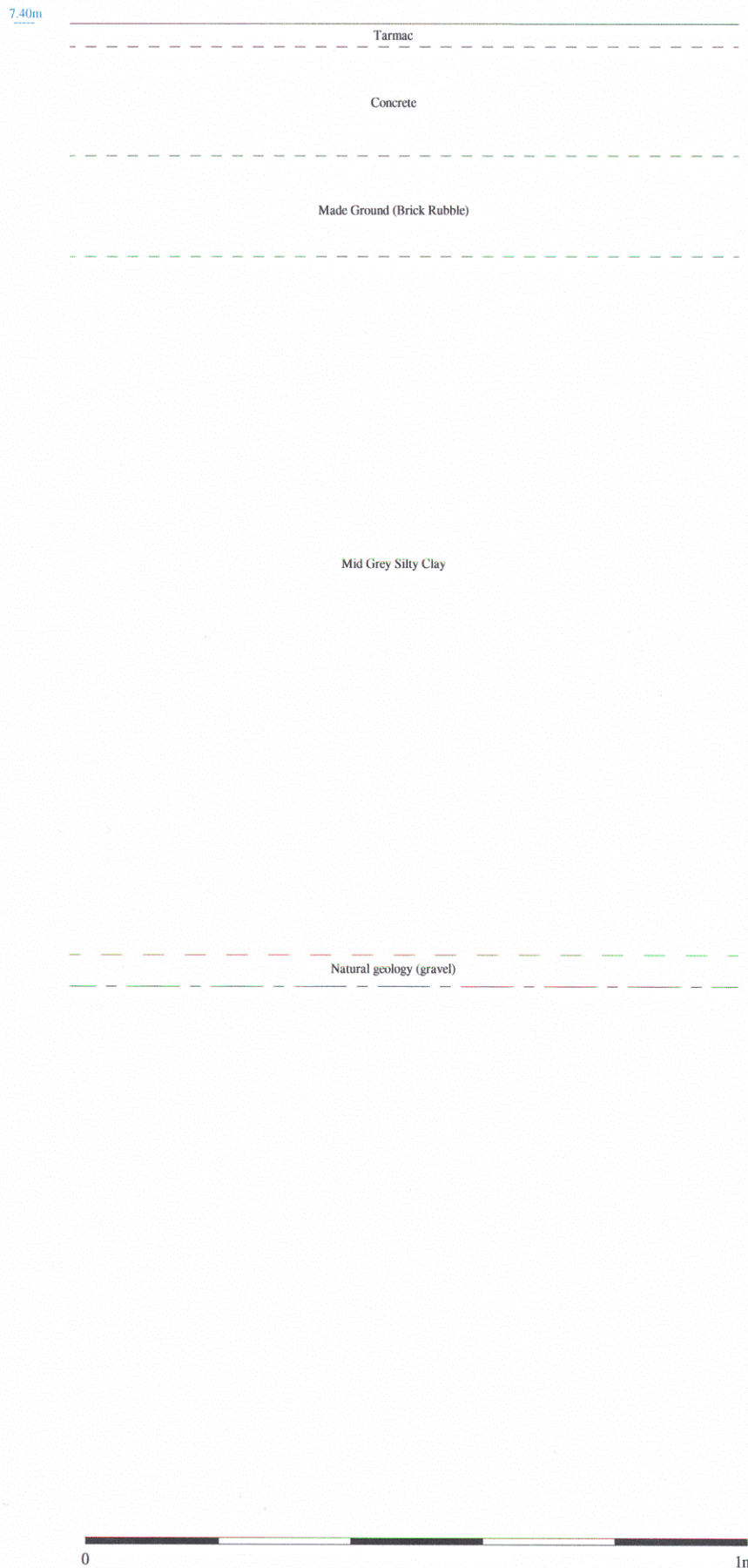


Figure 4: Representative Section of Trench 1



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north-east, Scales 2m and 1m.

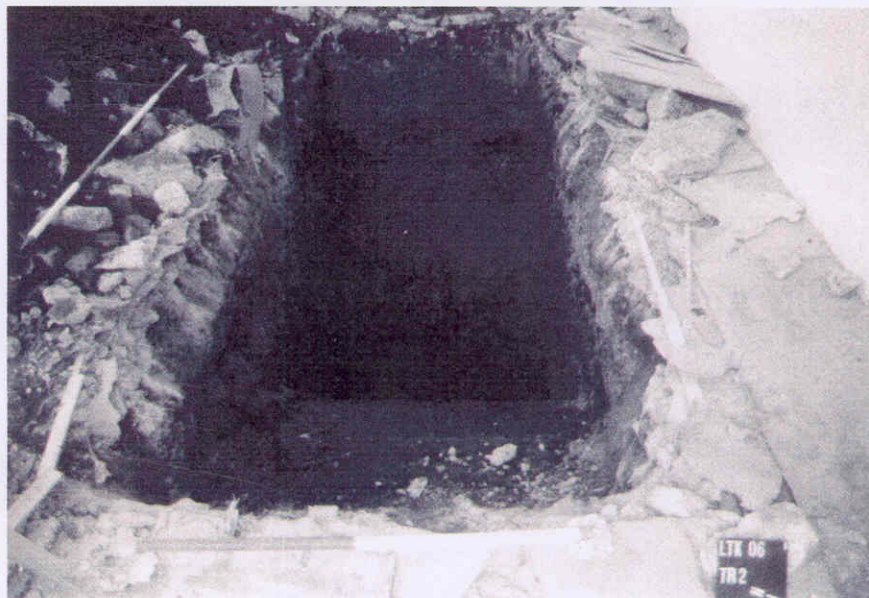


Plate 2. Trench 2 looking east, Scales 2m, and 1m