

**Former Putney Hospital, Lower Richmond Road,
London Borough of Wandsworth**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for CgMs Consulting

by Simon Cass

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PYH07

November 2007

Summary

Site name: Former Putney Hospital, Lower Richmond Road, London Borough of Wandsworth

Grid reference: TQ 2315 7595

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 1st–2nd November 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Simon Cass

Site code: PYH07

Area of site: 0.9 ha

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological relevance were encountered.

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 ✓ 13.11.07
	Steve Preston ✓ 14.11.06

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Report 07/119

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the former Putney Hospital, Lower Richmond Road, London Borough of Wandsworth (TQ2315 7595) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Lorraine Darton, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, Morley House, 26 Holbourne Viaduct, London, EC1A 2AT. It is proposed that the site of the former Putney Hospital be developed into a mixed use development, comprising demolition of the existing hospital buildings and the construction of a residential block and primary care centre. In advance of this, an archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the possibility of extant archaeological deposits surviving on the site.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification prepared by CgMs Consulting and approved by Ms Diane Walls of Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Cass and Illya Santos on the 1st and 2nd of November, 2007 and the site code is PYH07. 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 in Putney, part of the London Borough of Wandsworth. It is a short distance to the west of Putney Bridge, by the junction of the B349 and the B306 on the northern side of the road (Fig. 1). The site is currently occupied by the former hospital buildings and the vegetation has become moderately overgrown since the hospital closed. The underlying geology is listed as being on the border of the terrace gravels and alluvium, with the southern half of the site being gravels and the northern, alluvium (BGS 1981). Because of the necessity of moving one of the trenches away from the northernmost edge of the site, the geology observed in the trenches was the gravels. The current surface level of the site varied slightly but was usually approximately 6.5m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential for the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Hawkins 2006). In summary the site lies within the archeologically rich Thames Valley with a wide range of finds and sites recorded for many periods. For the environs of the site a Mesolithic flint implement was recovered from the water treatment works to the north and two concentrations of Neolithic flintwork are recorded to the south and south east at Sefton Street and Danemere Street. A Roman occupation site is recorded to the south at Felsham Road (MoLAS 2000).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. It also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions in an effort to assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance. Specific aims of the evaluation, within these broad parameters, were also to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, evaluate the likely impact of past land-use and development on the site and finally provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy

Four trenches were to be excavated by a JCB-type excavator utilizing a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Three trenches were to be 10m long and one 20m long. The trenches were to be 2m wide. The trenches were to be located around the hospital buildings targeting areas that may have been less disturbed by construction of the hospital. The trenches and spoilheaps were to be scanned with a metal detector.

Results

Five trenches were eventually excavated due to on-site obstructions and overhead live electricity cables restricting the length and locations of the proposed trenches. The fifth trench was dug in order to maintain the overall sample fraction. The trenches varied in width from 1.6m to 1.86m and were between 5.6m and 13.0m long. The trenches and spoilheaps were scanned with a metal detector.

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

Trench 1

This trench was 9.2m long, 1.78m wide and 1.38m deep. The features encountered in this trench consisted of modern drainage pipe cuts, passing along the northern and eastern sides of the trench. These cuts truncated the natural geology. The remaining stratigraphy, as seen in the western side of the trench, consisted of 0.37m of dark brown sandy silt topsoil and redeposited gravel above a light grey/brown silty sand with gravel inclusions and occasional modern brick fragments. Below this was the natural geology comprising pale yellow-orange sand and gravel. No archaeological deposits were noted.

Trench 2

This trench was 5.6m long, 1.8m wide and 0.98m deep. This trench was shortened to avoid overhanging power cables. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.39m of topsoil, with gravel and brick inclusions, above 0.28m of greyish brown silty sand. Below this was the natural geology comprising pale yellow-orange sand and gravel. No archaeological deposits were noted.

Trench 3

This trench was 9.96m long, 1.95m wide and 1.31m deep. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.66m of topsoil and made ground with brick and gravel inclusions above 0.41m of greyish brown silty sand with occasional brick and gravel inclusions. Below this was the natural geology comprising pale yellow-orange sand and gravel. No archaeological deposits were noted.

Trench 4 (Plates 1 and 2)

This trench was 12.5m long, 1.8m wide and 1.36m deep. The stratigraphy encountered in this trench consisted of 0.06m of Tarmac with a 0.28m thick brick rubble levelling layer underneath, overlying 0.36m of made ground consisting of subsoil, brick rubble and gravel inclusions. This lay above 0.49m of apparently undisturbed greyish brown subsoil. Below this was the natural geology comprising pale yellow-orange sand and gravel, interpreted as natural geology. Although this trench did appear to contain an undisturbed deposit the only finds in this trench were of modern origin (brick fragments, etc). No archaeological deposits were noted.

Trench 5 (Plates 3 and 4)

This trench was 13m long, 1.8m wide and 1.38m deep. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.05m of Tarmac above 0.52m of brick-rubble hardcore. Below this was 0.15m of black sandy silt with occasional brick fragments and possible clinker, believed to be a general dumping layer. This overlay 0.42m of disturbed grey

brown subsoil with brick fragments and gravel inclusions which sealed the natural geology comprising pale yellow-orange sand and gravel, interpreted as natural geology. No archaeological deposits were noted.

Finds

Twentieth-century detritus which included glass, brick plaster and concrete were noted during evaluation but were not retained.

Conclusion

In these areas of the site, marginal to the main bulk of the former hospital buildings, the trenches revealed that the natural gravel deposits were largely intact. However, the evaluation has not revealed any deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest. On the basis of these results, the site therefore would appear to have low archaeological potential.

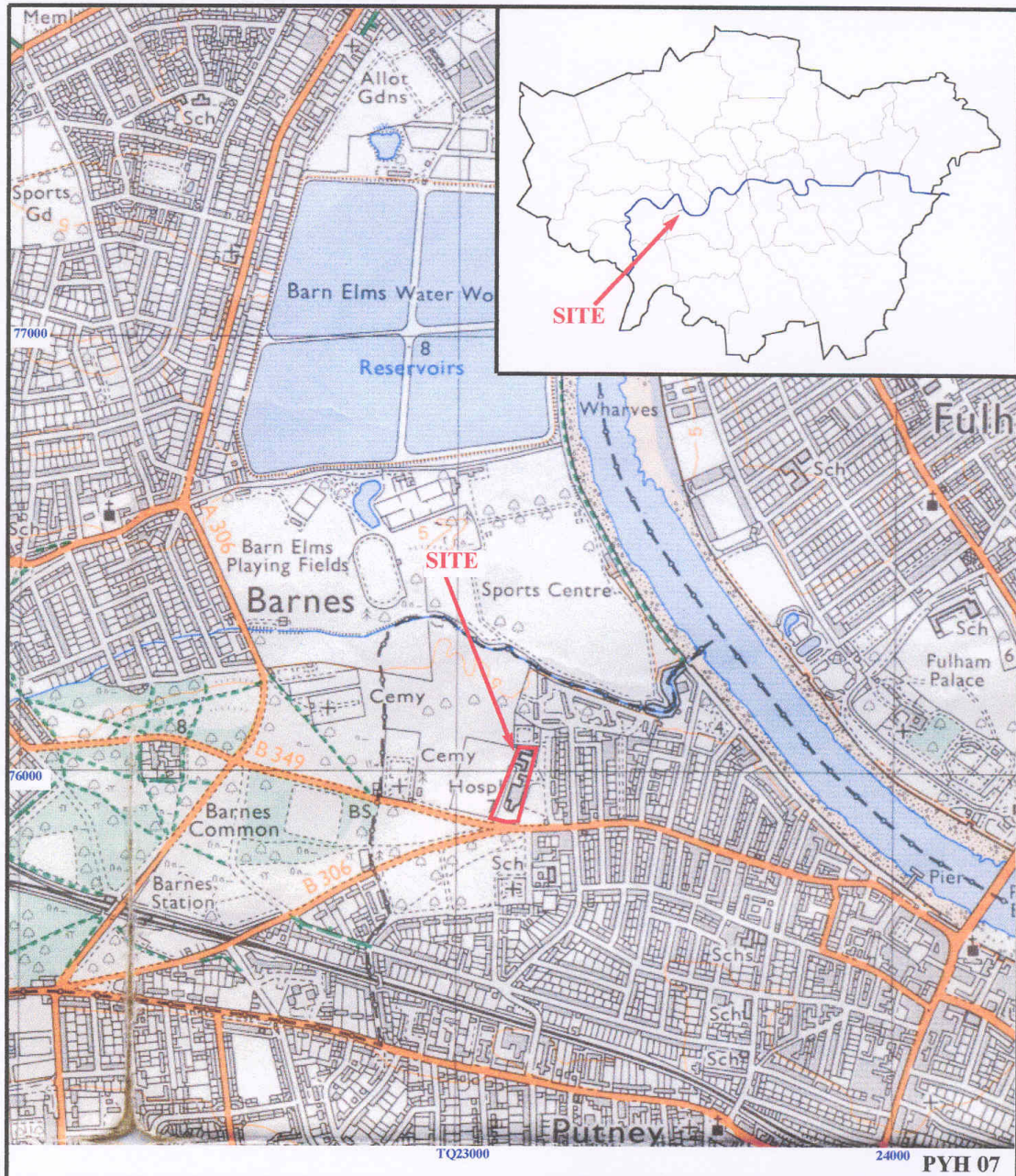
References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- 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 Monogr
- Hawkins D, 2006, 'Former Putney Hospital, Lower Richmond Road, London Borough of Wandsworth, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment', CgMs Consulting, London
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	9.2	1.78	1.42	0-0.37m Topsoil and made ground; 0.37-1.16m Light grey brown silty sand subsoil; 1.16m-1.42m Natural pale yellow sand and gravels (top of natural 5.87m AOD)
2	5.6	1.8	0.98	0-0.39m Topsoil and made ground; 0.39-0.67m Light grey brown silty sand subsoil; 0.67-0.98m Natural yellow sands with gravel patches (top of natural 5.06m AOD)
3	9.96	1.95	1.31	0-0.66m Topsoil and made ground; 0.66-1.07m Light grey brown silty sand subsoil; 1.07-1.31m Natural yellow sand and gravels (top of natural 5.02m AOD)
4	12.5	1.84	1.36	0-0.34m Tarmac and Brick rubble; 0.34-0.70m Made ground/levelling layer; 0.7-1.19m grey brown silty sand subsoil; 1.19-1.36m Natural pale yellow sand and gravels (top of natural 5.11m AOD) (Plates 1 and 2)
5	13.0	1.8	1.38	0-0.05m Tarmac; 0.05-0.62m Brick rubble hardcore; 0.62-0.82m Gravel levelling layer?; 0.82-1.34m Disturbed grey brown silty sand subsoil; 1.34-1.38m Natural pale yellow sand and gravels (top of natural 4.71m AOD) (Plates 3 and 4)

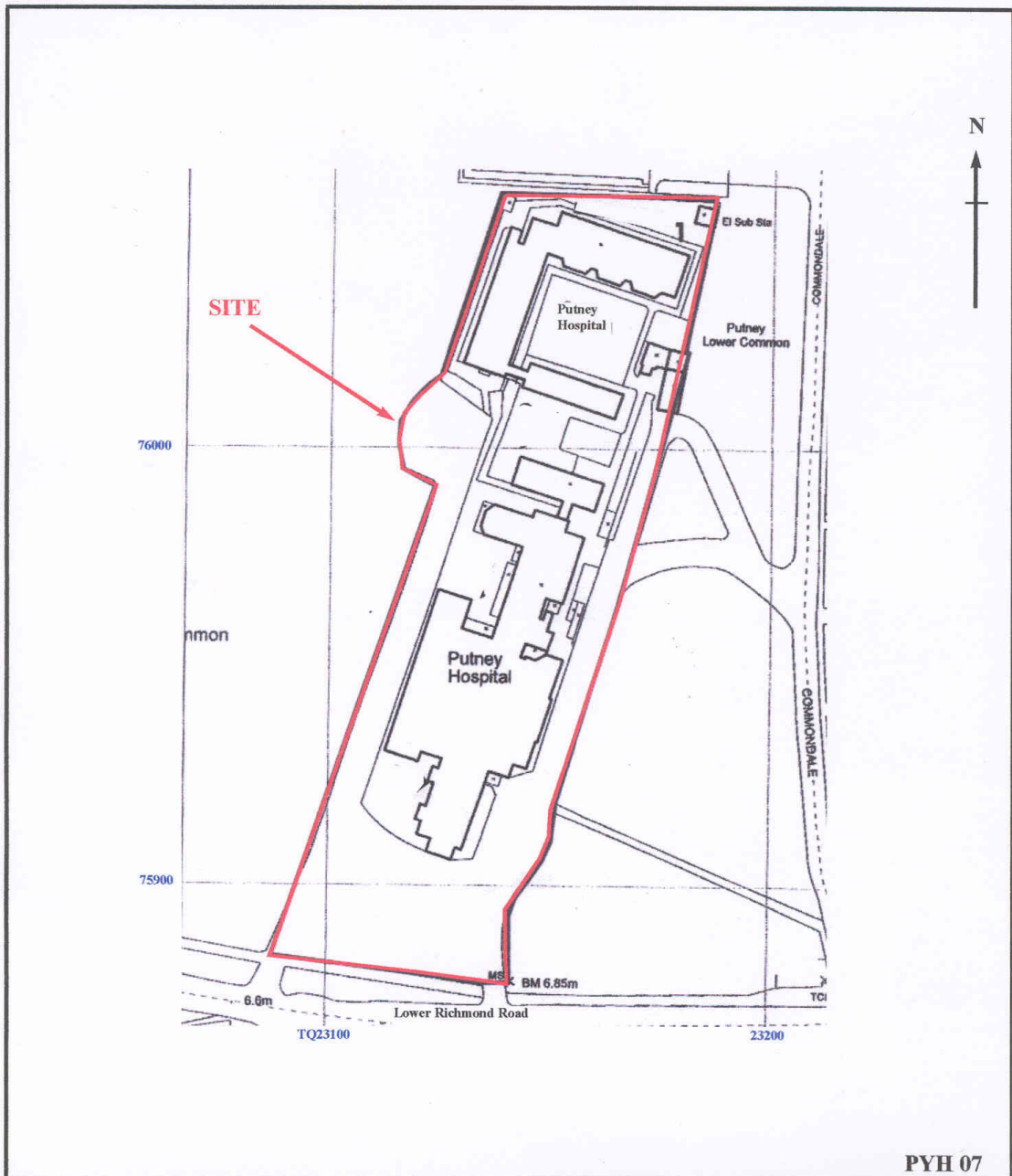


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Figure 1. Location of site within Putney and Greater London.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Lower Richmond Road.

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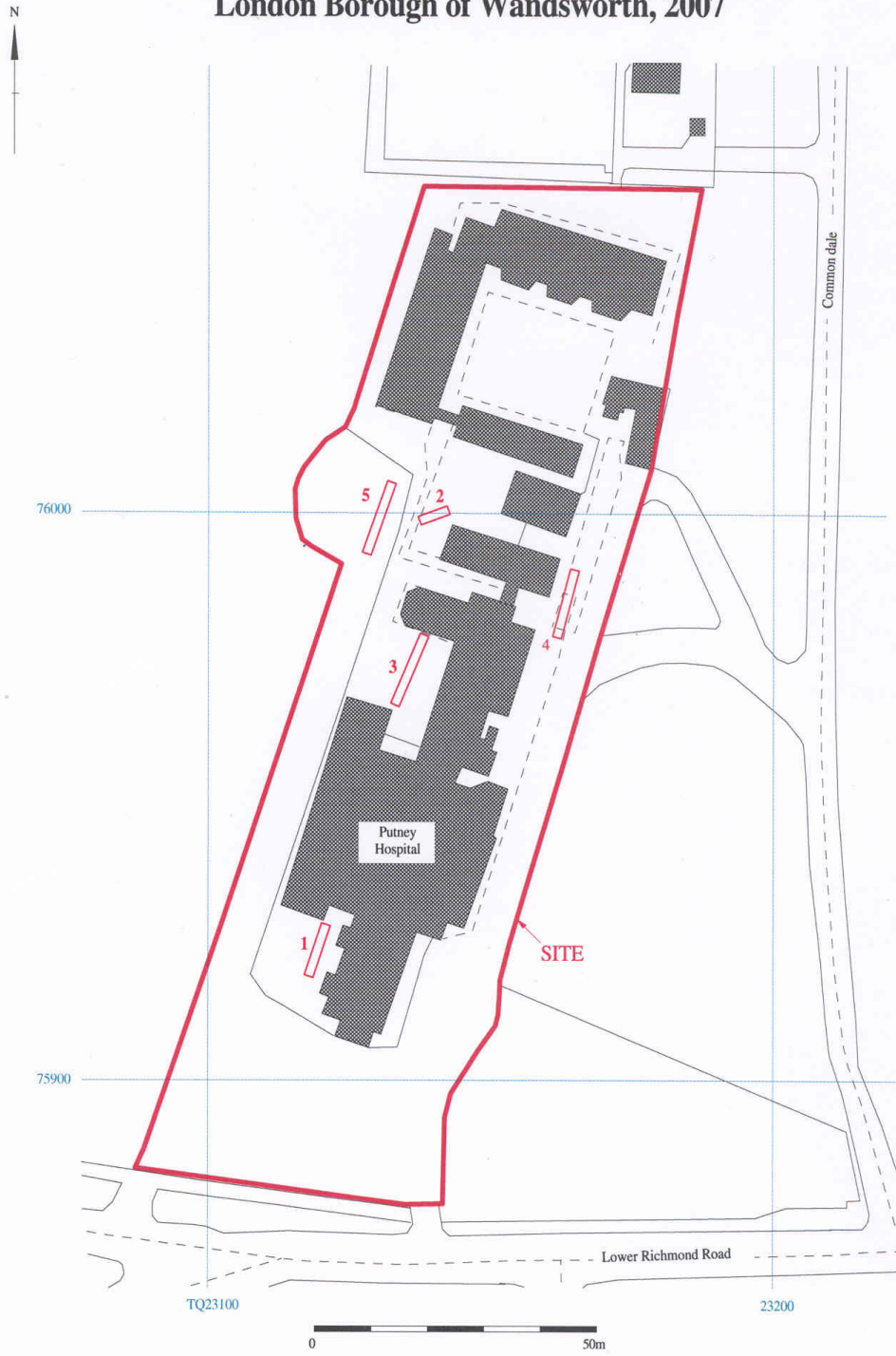


Figure 3. Location of trenches.

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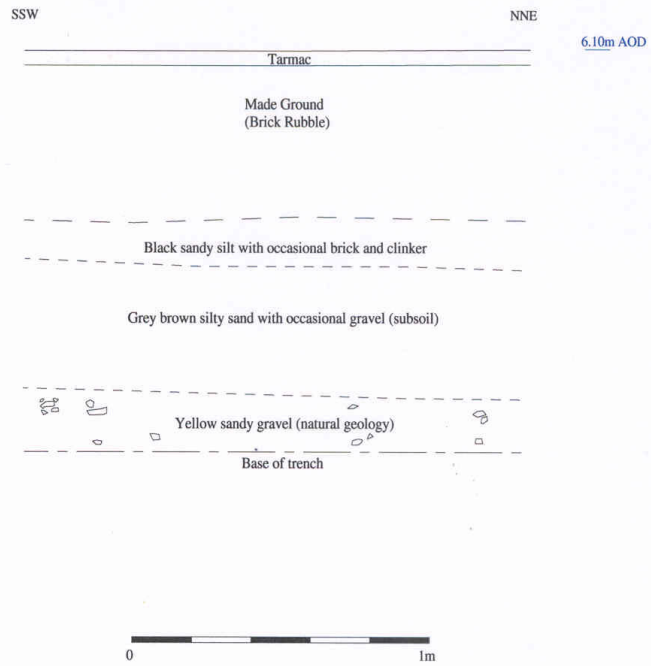


Figure 4. Representative section of Trench 5.

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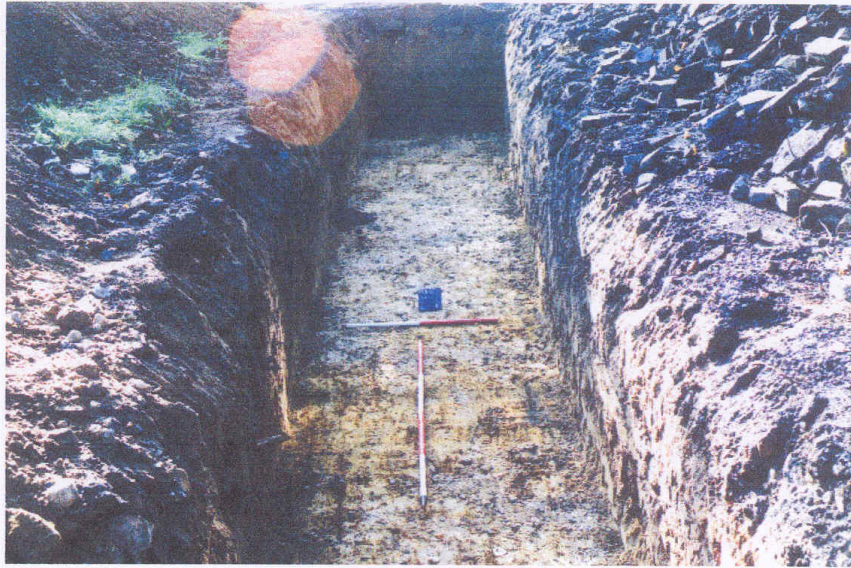


Plate 1. Trench 4, looking south west, scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking south east, scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Trench 5 looking north east , scales 1m and 2m.

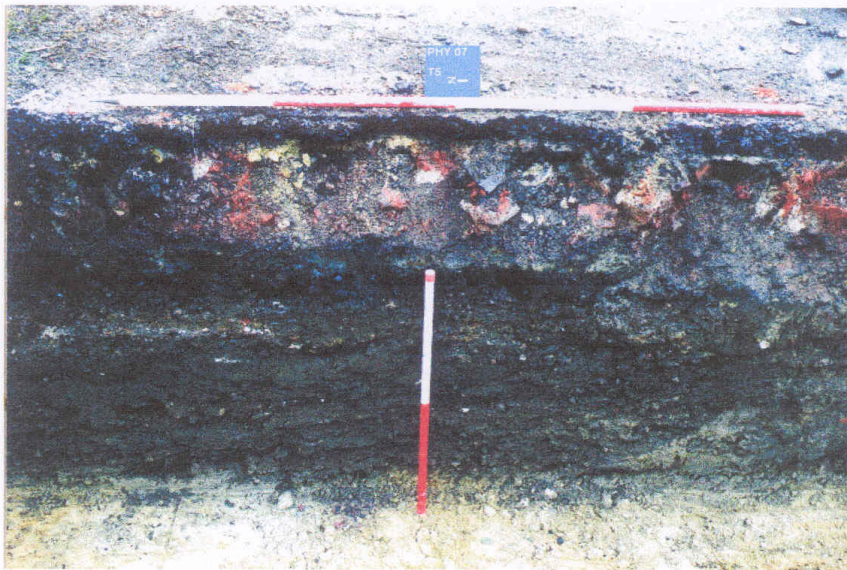


Plate 4. Trench 5, looking west , horizontal scale 2m, vertical scale 1m.