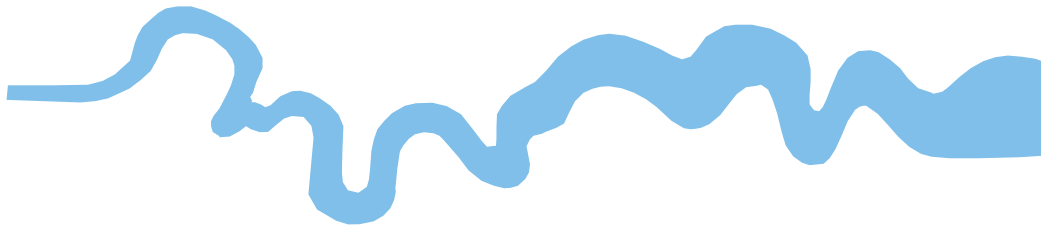


T V A S



SOUTH

**Olleys Posh Wosh, 151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington,
London Borough of Bromley**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Mark Leary

Site Code: SWO24/201

(TQ 4712 6888)

Olleys Posh Wosh, 151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Armour Heritage Limited

by Mark Learey

TVAS South

Site Code SWO 24/201

March 2025

Summary

Site name: Olleys Posh Wosh, 151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley

Grid reference: TQ 4712 6888

Planning reference: 20/03546/CONDIT

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 19th December 2024 - 10th March 2025

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Mark Learey

TVAS Project code: SWO 24/201

MOL site code: SVO25

Area of site: 0.11ha

Summary of results: The watching brief monitored the machine excavation of a 7m long trench to a depth of 1.5m and a 1m x 1.5m test pit to a depth of 1.7m for the purposes of characterising the nature of below ground deposits. Only modern waste and demolition rubble was observed, overlying probable agricultural loams and oily gravels. No archaeological deposits or features were revealed.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 21.03.25 Steve Preston✓ 21.03.25
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Olleys Posh Wosh, 151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley

An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Mark Learey

Report 24/201

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington (TQ 4712 6888) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned, on behalf of Mr Altan Ramadan, by Sue Farr of Armour Heritage, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset BA11 5DG.

Planning permission (22/04075/FULL1) has been granted by the London Borough of Bromley for the replacement of a three-storey car wash building comprising ancillary café, car accessories shop, workshop, staff room, store, offices and conference rooms. Due to the possibility of damage to, or destruction of, archaeological deposits during development of the site, the consent is subject to a condition (5) as follows:

No demolition or development shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

A. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works

B. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.

Reason: Required prior to commencement of any development because the site is of archaeological interest and detailed investigations should be undertaken to enable consideration to be given to preservation in situ and/or recording of items of interest in compliance with Policy 46 of the Bromley Local Plan.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) and the London Borough of Bromley's policies on archaeology. In this instance it was determined that this programme would take the form of an archaeological watching brief. Some initial site work had already taken place without monitoring, and the watching brief was maintained for subsequent below ground excavation to satisfy the planning condition and mitigate against possible damage to *in situ* archaeological deposits.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification provided by Armour Heritage Ltd (AH 2017) and approved by the Archaeological Advisor at the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), with specific reference to the relevant methodologies and standards guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), GLAAS and Historic England (HE). Monitoring was carried out by Mark Learey on 10th

March 2025 and the site code is SWO 24/201.

The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site comprises a 0.11ha rectangular parcel of land in the River Cray Valley, at the northern end of the historic town of Orpington in the London Borough of Bromley (Fig. 1). It is located on the east side of Sevenoaks Way, part of a strip comprising light industrial, retail and residential buildings, some 13km south of the River Thames. The site lies at an altitude of approximately 41m above Ordnance Datum, between two conservation areas – St. Paul’s Cray (240m northeast) and St. Mary’s Cray (370m south) – within the Upper Cray Valley Archaeological Priority Area. The underlying bedrock geology is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation while the superficial deposits are recorded as Taplow Gravel Member (Sand and gravel) (BGS 2025).

At the time of the watching brief, the pre-existing car wash had been demolished. The site was encountered as a broadly rectangular parcel of land with concrete hardstanding in place across most of the surface. At the time of the first visit, close to the eastern boundary, a large rectangular footings trench (c. 25m long and 8m wide) had been excavated, with a smaller service trench dug beside the length of its western side. Above the footings, steel pylons and a structural frame were in the process of being erected (Fig. 2; Pls 1 and 2).

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest primarily due to its situation within the Upper Cray Valley Archaeological Priority Area, designated due to prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity. This potential is comprehensively explored in a desk-based historic environment assessment (AH 2017). In summary, within a 1km radius of the site are 13 Listed Buildings, two of which are Listed Grade II* with the remainder being Grade II. In terms of recorded archaeological evidence in close proximity (500m) of the site, prehistory is represented by the discovery of Neolithic flint artefacts and human bone, the haft part of a flint sickle and a flint axe head, along with reports of a mammoth tusk. The Roman era is represented by two coin finds, tiles reused in the construction of a local church, and a 1st–2nd century settlement on the west side of the River Cray, excavated in 1933. Remnants of the medieval period survive in nearby churches of St Paulinus and St Mary.

Archaeological investigations in the immediate vicinity of the site include evaluations at 153 Sevenoaks Way and Springvale Way Retail Park and a 1972 excavation following up the suspected existence of a Roman site at 149 Sevenoaks Way (Bluer 1998a; Bluer 1998b; Casson 1999; Parsons 1972). Other than some residual Roman finds, nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the archaeological fieldwork were:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should any remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;
- to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;
- to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
- to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
- to prepare a report on the results of the archaeological mitigation; and
- to prepare and deposit a site archive with the local museum.

The relevant research agenda for the site comprises *A research framework for London Archaeology* prepared by the Museum of London and English Heritage (MoL 2002).

Within the parameters of the general aims of the project and the relevant research agenda, the monitoring of this site presented an opportunity to address the following objectives:

- Identify the presence of any prehistoric artefactual evidence, particularly with regard to Mesolithic archaeology recorded in the immediate area;
- Identify the extent of any Roman activity within the site;
- Identify the presence of Saxon and medieval period activity, which may relate to agricultural activity associated with the priory to the north;
- Identify the extent of post-medieval and modern activity within the site; and
- Provide sufficient information to enable the production of an appropriate archaeological watching brief report.

To achieve these objectives, monitoring observed the machine excavation of a trench measuring 7m long, 1.2m wide and 1.5m deep and the excavation of a test pit measuring 1.5m long, 1m wide and 1.7m deep (Fig. 2). The excavations were, where possible, undertaken using a small 360° type machine fitted with a 1.2m bladed bucket to ensure a clean finish; however, the hardstanding concrete and brick-built structures encountered within the trench required the temporary deployment of a toothed bucket and a pneumatic drill. During the excavation, spoil heaps were monitored for items of archaeological significance. A section of the test pit was hand-cleaned prior to recording.

Results (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 3–8)

The trench was dug from north to south to a depth of 1.5m and was positioned immediately adjacent and approximately central to footings along the western length of the building, within the overall footprint of the structure (Pls 3 and 4). It was mixed throughout by waste, rubble and other modern inclusions, most of which

could be conclusively dated to the late 20th century (Fig. 3; Pls 5 and 6). This corresponds to the material observed in the spoil heap resulting from the earlier (unmonitored) footing excavations.

In section was visible 0.3m of hardstanding concrete below which, 4m south of the northern extent, was observed a 1m deep brick-built drain with a cement base. The base extended northwards and was likely part of a soakaway tank associated with the car wash. Surrounding this, to a maximum thickness of 0.25m, a silty redeposited soil containing modern inclusions and demolition rubble had been added as backfill/overburden prior to the laying of the concrete hardstanding. Beneath this lay 0.1m of degraded sandy cement, a 0.15m deposit of oily asphalt-like material, and a 0.5m deposit of dark grey brown clay silt – likely agricultural loam – containing infrequent modern inclusions and overlying oily natural gravels, reached at 39.50m aOD. The loam and gravels are consistent with findings at 153 Sevenoaks way and Springvale Way Retail Park (Bluer 1998a; Bluer 1998b; Casson 1999). No deposits of archaeological significance were observed.

The test pit was also dug adjacent to the footings trench, external to the structure and positioned to avoid existing services (Fig. 3; Pl. 7). The stratigraphy seen in section was broadly in keeping with that of the trench, with a 0.25m thick layer of concrete overlying 0.25m of silty redeposited soil and demolition rubble, beneath which lay 0.15m of sandy cement and 0.15m of light grey green clay. Below this was recorded 0.3m of oily asphalt-like material overlying a deposit of dark grey brown clay silt, again interpreted as probable agricultural loam. No deposits of archaeological significance were observed. The natural gravels were not reached at this depth (39.8m aOD).

Conclusion

The watching brief monitored the excavation of a trench and a test pit during construction works at 151 Sevenoaks Road (Pl. 8) over the course of three visits. Although monitoring of all of the below-ground works was not possible, no evidence of archaeological features or artefacts was observed. The site has previously been heavily disturbed, although what appears to be a buried soil does survive at 1.1m below modern ground level.

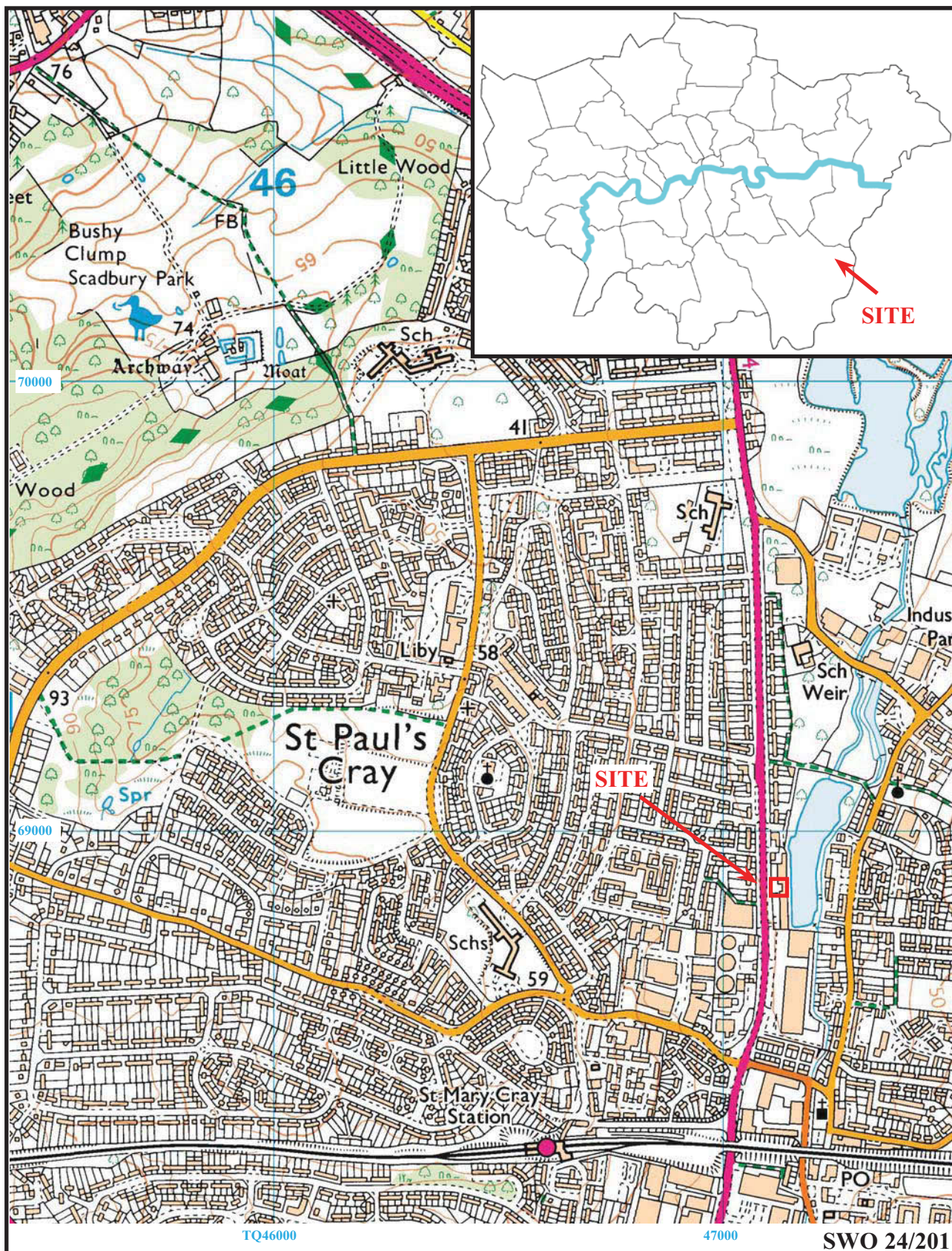
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OASIS Summary for thamesva1-532624

OASIS ID (UID)	thamesva1-532624
Project Name	Watching Brief at 151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley
Sitename	151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley
Sitecode	SVO25
Project Identifier(s)	SWO24/201
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	22/04075/FULL1
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	TVAS South
Project Dates	19-Dec-2024 - 10-Mar-2025
Location	151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley NGR : TQ 47123 68875 LL : 51.39983427194302, 0.11356133799384 12 Fig : 547123,168875
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Bromley Local Authority District : Bromley Parish : Bromley, unparished area
Project Methodology	The watching brief monitored the machine excavation of a 7m long trench to a depth of 1.5m and a 1m x 1.5m test pit to a depth of 1.7m.
Project Results	Only modern waste and demolition rubble was observed, overlying probable agricultural loams and oily gravels at about 39.8m AOD.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation Armour Heritage Ltd
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Steve Ford
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Museum of London; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

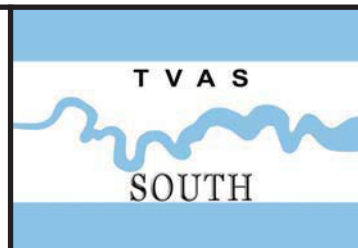
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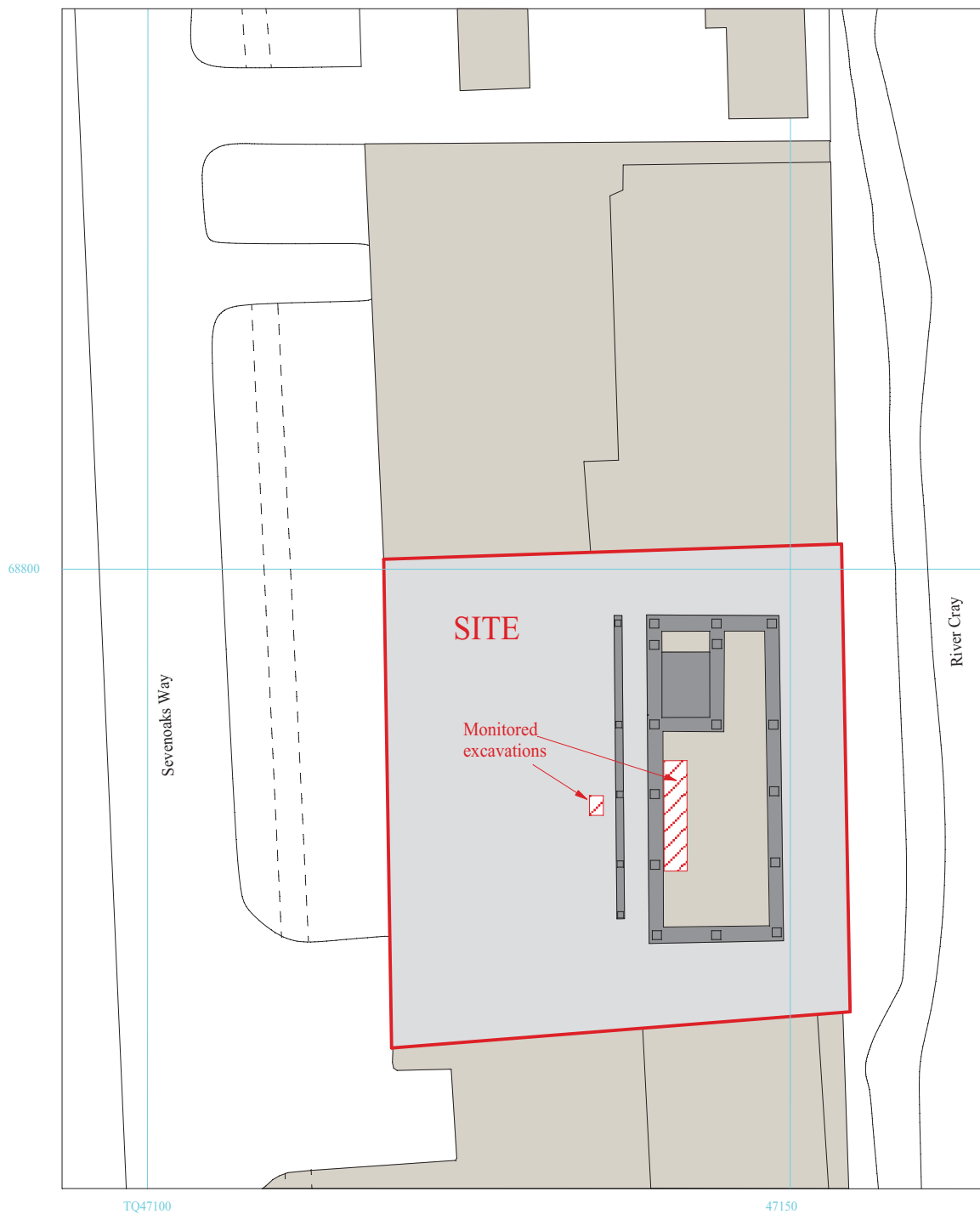


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**Figure 1. Location of site within Orpington and
Greater London.**

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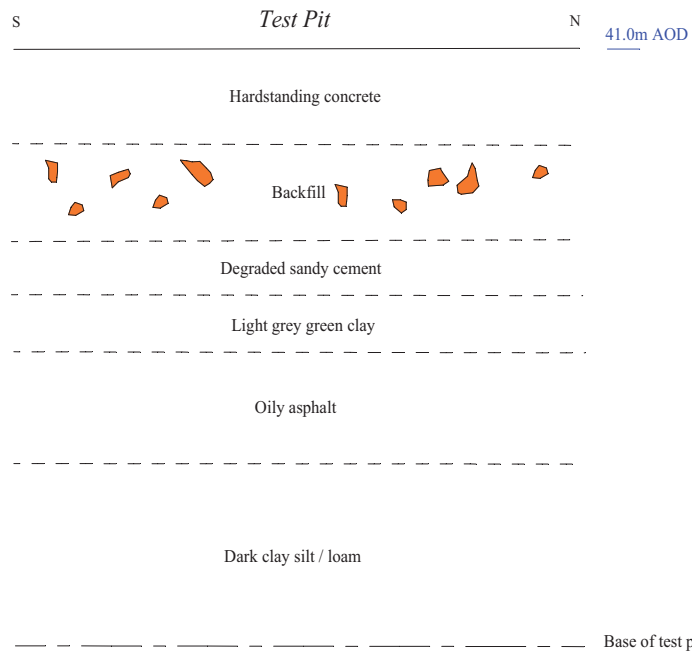
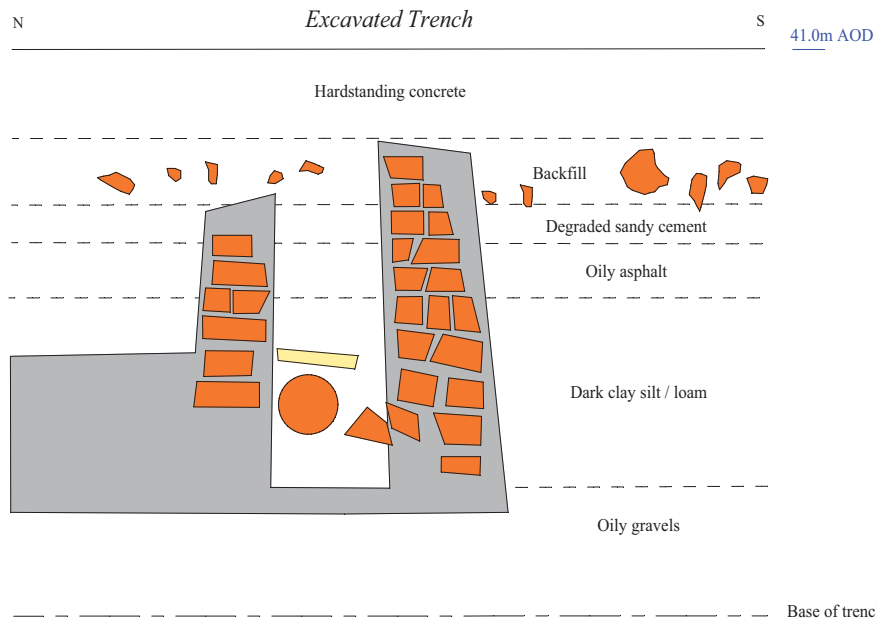


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Figure 2. Site plan and location of monitored excavations

0 25m





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**Olleys Posh Wosh, 151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington,
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Figure 3. Monitored excavations representative sections

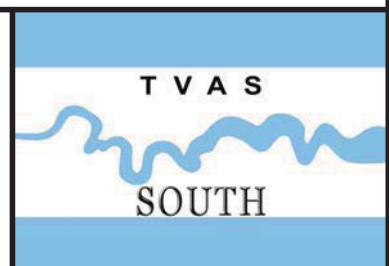




Plate 1. Site as encountered, looking northwest,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Site as encountered, looking northeast.



Plate 3. Trench excavation, looking southeast.



Plate 4. Trench excavation, looking southeast.

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**Olleys Posh Wosh, 151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington,
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Plates 1 - 4.**

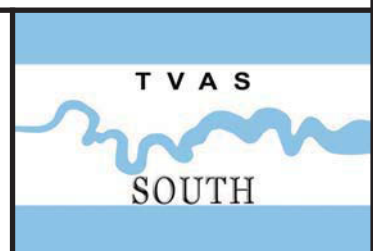




Plate 5. Excavated trench, looking northeast,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 6. Section of trench, looking east,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



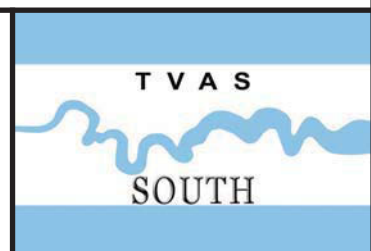
Plate 7. Excavated test pit, looking west,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 8. Post-excitation site overview,
looking northeast.

SWO24/201

**Olleys Posh Wosh, 151 Sevenoaks Way, Orpington,
London Borough of Bromley, 2025
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Plates 5 - 8.**

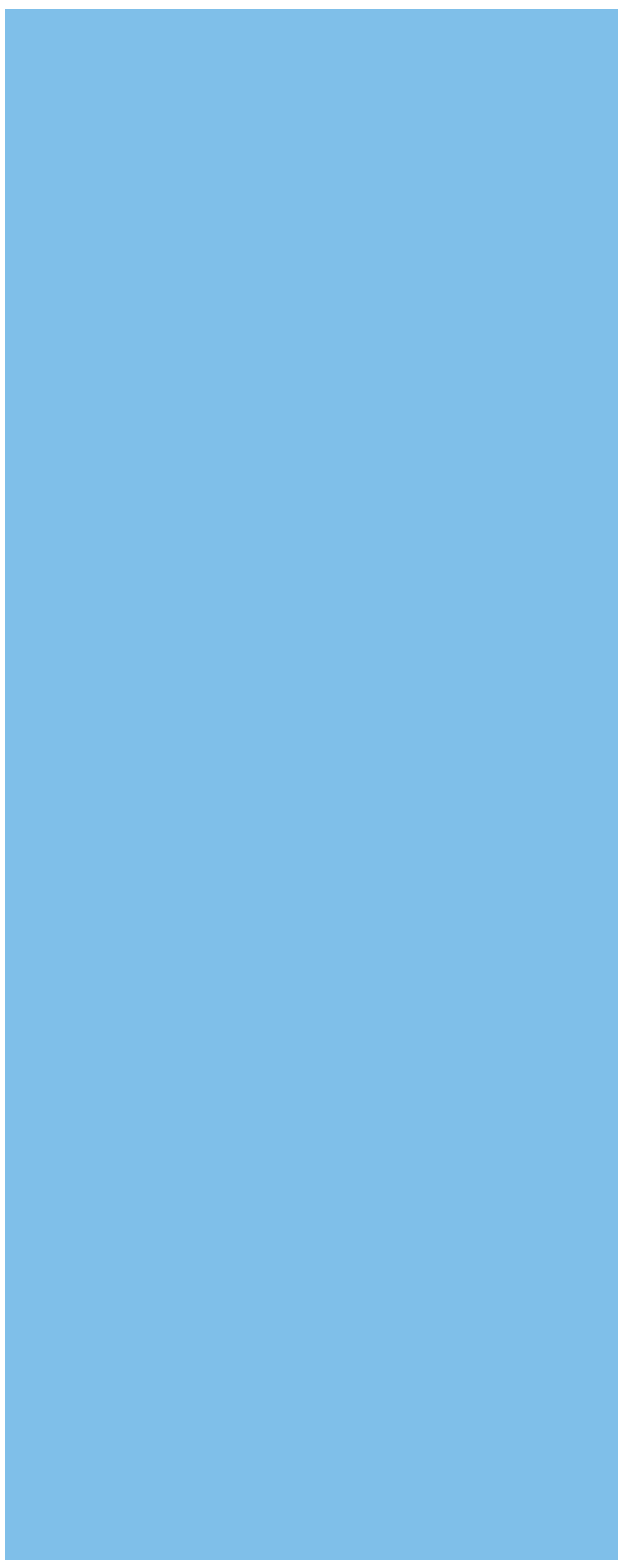
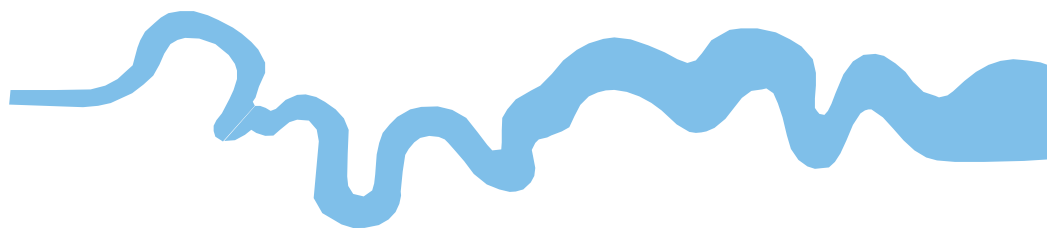


TIME CHART

Calendar Years

Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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