

Archaeological Investigation Report

# **40-42 PONTON ROAD LONDON SW8**

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For CgMs Consulting

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Guy Hunt BA MCIfA

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Investigation Report

# 40-42 PONTON ROAD LONDON SW8

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Client: CgMs Consulting

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Local Authority: London Borough of Wandsworth

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NGR: 529765, 177425

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Author: G Hunt

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Doc Ref: LPI962L-AER-v3.6

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Site Code: POT16

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Date: February 17

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## L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

A trading name of L - P : Heritage LLP

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# Abstract

This report presents the results five archaeological trenches carried out at 40-42 Ponton Road in the London Borough of Wandsworth by L - P : Archaeology on four occasions in February, April and December 2016 and January 2017. The work was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The site code allocated for the work was POT16.

A programme of archaeological investigation consisting of the excavation of five trenches has been designed by CgMs Consulting.

The results from all five trenches indicate that truncation events have occurred across the site in the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. No archaeological deposits were encountered during the excavation of the trenches.

This is the final report on the archaeological works and supersedes the two previous interim reports issued for this work.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report has been prepared by Guy Hunt of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The project was designed and managed by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting.
- 1.2. This report presents the results from all five trenches completed during the programme of archaeological works.
- 1.3. The report considers land at 40-42 Ponton Road SW8 in the London Borough of Wandsworth (LBW). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 529765,177425 (FIGURE 1).
- 1.4. The site lies at a corner of Ponton Road and is bounded to the east and south by Ponton Road. To the west lies an adjacent property also fronting Ponton Road and to the north the site is bounded by a property accessed from Post Office Way (FIGURE 2).
- 1.5. The fieldwork was carried out by L - P : Archaeology on four occasions: the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of February; the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2016; the 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> of December 2016; and the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2017. Fieldwork was supervised by Cornelius Barton.
- 1.6. The site code allocated by the Museum of London is POT16.
- 1.7. The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs Consulting (CGMS CONSULTING 2015). The WSI was agreed in consultation with Mark Stevenson, the Historic England Greater London Advisory Service (GLAAS) advisor to LBW.
- 1.8. L - P : Archaeology wish to thank the following people and institution for their help and support during this project: Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning and supporting the project; Bellway Homes for their help and support during the fieldwork; and Mark Stevenson of the Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service for monitoring the works.

## 2. Site Background

### 2.1. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 2.1.1. The site has been the subject of Archaeological Assessment undertaken by CgMs Consulting in 2014 (CGMS CONSULTING 2014).
- 2.1.2. This assessment was followed by geoarchaeological investigation and deposit modelling undertaken by CgMs Consulting and QUEST (CGMS CONSULTING 2015A). This work resulted in a deposit model for the site.
- 2.1.3. This model indicates that there may be a gravel island under the study site. Areas of higher ground such as this island which lay within the marshy areas along the River Thames are considered to have high potential for remains from prehistoric periods.
- 2.1.4. An extract of the deposit model is included in the WSI and indicates the projected OD levels of the gravel across the site (CGMS CONSULTING 2015B: FIG 2).
- 2.1.5. The site lies within the area of the Battersea Channel Project (BCP) and the results from the present work will feed back into the framework established for this wider area study.

### 3. Aims

3.1. The aims of the fieldwork as set out in the WSI (CGMS CONSULTING 2015B) were:

- 3.1.1. To establish whether archaeological sites exist within the study site, and to establish relevant importance/significance.
- 3.1.2. To aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied, and attention should be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).
- 3.1.3. To seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

3.2. The WSI also set out that the present fieldwork on the site presents an opportunity to address the following overall objectives (CGMS CONSULTING 2015B: 5):

- 3.2.1. To establish and understand the presence or otherwise of prehistoric and any later activity, and to define the date, nature, condition and scope of such activity;
- 3.2.2. To establish the environmental context of prehistoric and later activity;
- 3.2.3. To establish the likely impact of past land use and development.

3.3. In regard to preservation of remains, the WSI states (CGMS CONSULTING 2015B: 5):

*Should physical preservation be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect affect of the proposed development should also be considered.*

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to the WSI (CGMS CONSULTING 2015B) which sets out the detailed fieldwork methods employed during the fieldwork as well as the recording and archival standards applied.
- 4.2. The work consisted of the machine excavation of five trenches. The locations of the trenches are illustrated on FIGURE 3.
- 4.3. The work was completed in the following sequence: Trench 5 was excavated in February 2016; Trench 1 in April 2016; Trenches 2 and 3 in December 2016; and Trench 4 in January 2017.
- 4.4. Trench 1 was located close to the proposed trench location, on the same alignment but set back c.7m to the south east. The trench measured c.13m x 2m at base. Due to the depth of deposits (c.3m) the trench was partially stepped. Trench box equipment was made available by the client, but was not required as there was no need for personnel to enter the trench.
- 4.5. Trench 2 was located at the position indicated in the WSI although it was shortened at the north west end due to the presence of a concrete footing. The trench measured 14m x 2m at base. There was no requirement to enter the trench therefore trench box equipment was not required.
- 4.6. Trench 3 was located at the position indicated in the WSI although it was shortened at the south west end due to the presence of a concrete crane base. The trench measured 10m x 2m at base. There was no requirement to enter the trench therefore trench box equipment was not required.
- 4.7. Trench 4 was located at the position indicated in the WSI although it was shortened at the south west end due to the presence of the site entrance. The trench measured 7m x 1.8m at base. There was no requirement to enter the trench therefore trench box equipment was not required.
- 4.8. Trench 5 was located close to the proposed trench location, but rotated by 90 degrees. The trench measured 1.9m x 5.2m at base. There was no requirement to

enter the trench therefore trench box equipment was not required.

4.9. The trenches were laid out using a Leica Smartrover DGPS system. In order to avoid site obstructions, the trenches were rotated and moved very slightly from the proposed locations. The final locations of the trenches as excavated were then surveyed in using the DGPS equipment.

## 5. Results

5.1.A matrix diagram is included in APPENDIX 1. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses), cuts in [square brackets] and masonry is underlined. All heights are quoted in metres above Ordnance Datum (m OD).

5.2.During the evaluation, eleven context numbers were issued, and no context numbers were voided.

### 5.3.TRENCH 1 (TR1)

5.3.1. The location of TR1 is shown on FIGURE 3. The recorded deposits are illustrated in section in FIGURE 4. The stratigraphic matrix for this can be found in APPENDIX 1.



Plate 1 - General view of TR1 looking south west.

5.3.2. The earliest deposit encountered in TR1 was the natural terrace gravel (105). This is a mid yellow brown coarse flint gravel. The gravel was only seen in a small area of the trench at 1.96m OD as it had been disturbed by a 20<sup>th</sup> century construction cut for a wall. This deposit was not fully excavated. Excavation ceased after it was determined that this deposit was a natural geological deposit.

5.3.3. The natural gravel was overlain by a grey alluvial clay at 2.56m OD. This was

only visible to the north of the wall, as it had been truncated by the cut for the 20<sup>th</sup> century wall, thus no direct relationship can be attributed between the gravel and clay. This deposit was not fully excavated as it was determined that it was natural geology.

- 5.3.4. Cut into the natural geologies (105) and (108), was the construction cut [109] for a 20<sup>th</sup> century yellow stock and concrete wall footing 110. The cut was visible at 2.56m OD and was c.0.80m deep. The wall (PLATE 2) was a mixture of yellow stock brick and concrete and formed a foundation footing for a 20<sup>th</sup> century building. The surviving remains of the wall footing were c.1.84m deep and first detected at 3.48m OD.
- 5.3.5. Built up against the north side of the wall were several make up layers. The first of these was (107), at 2.68m OD. This was a thin (c.0.12m thick) mixed dump deposit of black crushed tarmac, concrete and sand. This was likely construction waste from activity contemporary to the construction of the 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings.
- 5.3.6. Overlying this deposit was a c.0.20m thick deposit of very dark grey fine silt mixed with a fine inorganic black substance thought to be coal dust (104). This deposit is interpreted as a late 19th century or 20th century waste material deposit, resulting from former land uses on the site. The surface of this deposit was at 2.88m OD.
- 5.3.7. Deposit (103) was a yellow grey sand layer. This layer was interpreted as a make up layer, most likely this was to provide a suitable consolidated surface to begin construction of 19th century buildings. The deposit was c.0.60m thick, the upper level of the deposit was at c.3.48m OD.
- 5.3.8. A 20<sup>th</sup> century yellow stock brick floor 102 was observed in section. The floor was c.0.20m thick and was visible at 3.80m OD. Only a small section of this floor survived, roughly c0.50m, and it may have been related to the 110 building, although no relationship can be proved.
- 5.3.9. Sealing the floor was a mixed yellow grey sand with frequent waste building



material (106). This deposit was interpreted as a demolition layer. This deposit was approximately c.0.46m thick. The surface of the deposit was at 4.26m OD.

5.3.10. A similar demolition and rubble layer (111), was identified at 3.50m OD sealing the wall 110. This layer was darker and contained soot and clay, and was c.0.14m thick.



Plate 2 - Yellow stock wall footing 110, with demolition deposit (111). Facing north east TR1.

5.3.11. Sealing the entire sequence was a c.1.22m thick deposit of modern make up (101). This was a mixed grey brown and dark grey black deposit composed of mixed silt, clay, sand and gravel. This deposit contained modern building materials. The upper level of this deposit was the present ground surface at 4.72m OD.

#### 5.4. TRENCH 2 (TR2)

5.4.1. The location of TR2 is shown on FIGURE 3. The recorded deposits are illustrated in section in FIGURE 5. The stratigraphic matrix for this can be found in APPENDIX 1.

5.4.2. The earliest deposit encountered in TR2 was the natural terrace gravel (205).

This is a mid yellow brown coarse flint gravel. (205) survived at 1.30m OD at its highest point.

- 5.4.3. The natural gravel (205) was truncated by a horizontal truncation [206], the lowest point of the cut was at -0.40m OD.



Plate 3 - Southwest facing section of TR2. 1m scale.

- 5.4.4. A modern make up deposit (207) filled the truncation [206] to a thickness of 2.30m. This was in turn overlain by (202) a 3.0m thick modern make up layer. Both layers contained ash, soot and other debris thought to derive from the former land use of the site.

- 5.4.5. Sealing the sequence in this trench was a layer of modern construction debris containing modern materials such as plastic. This was roughly 1m thick. Modern ground level was at 4.9m OD.

### 5.5. TRENCH 3 (TR3)

- 5.5.1. The location of TR3 is shown on FIGURE 3. The recorded deposits are illustrated in section in FIGURE 6. The stratigraphic matrix for this can be found in APPENDIX 1.

- 5.5.2. The earliest deposit encountered in TR3 was the natural terrace gravel (305). This is a mid yellow brown coarse flint gravel. The natural gravel had been

horizontally truncated and survived to a level of 1.4m OD.

- 5.5.3. The natural gravel in this area was sealed by (304) a 2.7m thick mixed clay deposit containing brick fragments building rubble and glass of clearly 20<sup>th</sup> century date. This was sealed by (303) a similar but slightly paler deposit to (304) measuring 1.4m in thickness.
- 5.5.4. Deposit (302) a 2.2m thick levelling deposit containing mixed building rubble, concrete, glass, plastic and other demolition debris of clear 20<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 5.5.5. The sequence in this area was sealed by the modern surface (301) a 1m thick layer of concrete crush. The modern ground level was 4.8m OD in this area.



Plate 4 - TR4 under excavation. View from the north east.



## 5.6.TRENCH 4 (TR4)

- 5.6.1. The location of TR4 is shown on FIGURE 3. The recorded deposits are illustrated in section in FIGURE 7. The stratigraphic matrix for this can be found in APPENDIX 1.
- 5.6.2. The earliest deposit encountered in TR4 was the natural terrace gravel (404). This is a mid red brown bedded coarse flint gravel. The natural survived to a truncated level of 2.1m OD across the trench area.
- 5.6.3. The truncated surface of the gravel (404) was sealed by (403) a dark grey clay containing brick rubble. This layer was 0.3m thick. This was overlain by (402) a mixed layer of clay containing black soot and charcoal 0.9m thick.
- 5.6.4. The sequence in this area was sealed by (401) a mixed layer containing clay and building rubble 1.4m thick. Modern ground level in this area was at 4.8m OD.

## 5.7.TRENCH 5 (TR5)

- 5.7.1. The location of TR5 is shown on FIGURE 3. The recorded deposits are illustrated in section in FIGURE 8. The stratigraphic matrix for this can be found in APPENDIX 1.



Plate 5 - General view of TR5 looking east. Scale 1m.

- 5.7.2. The earliest deposit encountered in TR5 was the natural terrace gravel (505). This is a mid yellow brown coarse flint gravel. The undulating surface of this gravel varied between c.1.30m OD and c.1.40m OD. This surface is interpreted as having been truncated during the modern period, perhaps as a result of former land uses on the site. This deposit was not fully excavated. Excavation ceased after it was determined that this deposit was a natural geological deposit.
- 5.7.3. Overlaying the truncated remains of the natural gravel was a mixed yellow brown flint gravel with dark grey silt (504). This deposit was interpreted as the disturbed natural, perhaps resulting from the same event that truncated the natural gravel (505). This deposit was approximately 0.25m thick. The surface of the deposit was at c.1.55m OD.
- 5.7.4. Overlying the disturbed natural was a c.0.8m thick deposit of very dark grey fine silt mixed with a fine inorganic black substance thought to be coal dust (503). This deposit is interpreted as a late 19<sup>th</sup> century or 20<sup>th</sup> century waste material deposit, resulting from former land uses on the site. The surface of this deposit was at 2.35m OD.
- 5.7.5. Deposit (502) was similar in nature to deposit (503) which it sealed. Deposit (502) appeared to contain a greater percentage of coal dust material compared to (503). The deposit was c.0.40m thick, the upper level of the deposit was at c.2.75m OD.



Plate 6 - West facing section of TR5. Scale 1m.

5.7.6. Sealing the entire sequence was a 1.75m thick deposit of modern make up (501). This was a mixed grey-brown/red-brown deposit composed of mixed silt, clay, sand and gravel. This deposit contained modern building materials. The upper level of this deposit was the present ground surface at 4.47m OD.

## 5.8.DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

5.8.1. In all five trenches the natural geology had been truncated in the recent past, most likely the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This truncation appears to be widespread across the site and seems likely to have resulted from redevelopment of the site prior to the most recent land use.

5.8.2. No archaeological remains were observed in any of the trenches.

5.8.3. No buried soil horizons or buried land surfaces were observed in any of the trenches.

## **6. Finds**

6.1.No archaeological artefacts were found during the evaluation.

## 7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1. A site at 40-42 Ponton Road, Wandsworth is proposed for redevelopment.
- 7.2. A programme of archaeological investigation consisting of the excavation of five trenches has been designed by CgMs Consulting.
- 7.3. In summary the stratigraphic sequence across the site showed a modern horizontal truncation of the natural gravels at varying levels from -0.4m OD to 2.1m OD. This truncation was sealed by clearly modern make up layers. This suggests that the site was subject to a widespread horizontal truncation event at some point in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.4. No archaeological deposits were observed anywhere on the site and the potential for the survival of such remains is considered to be nil.



# SOURCES CONSULTED

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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CgMs CONSULTING, 2015a. *Geoarchaeological Fieldwork and Deposit Model Report 40-42 Ponton Road Nine Elms London SW8*. CgMs.

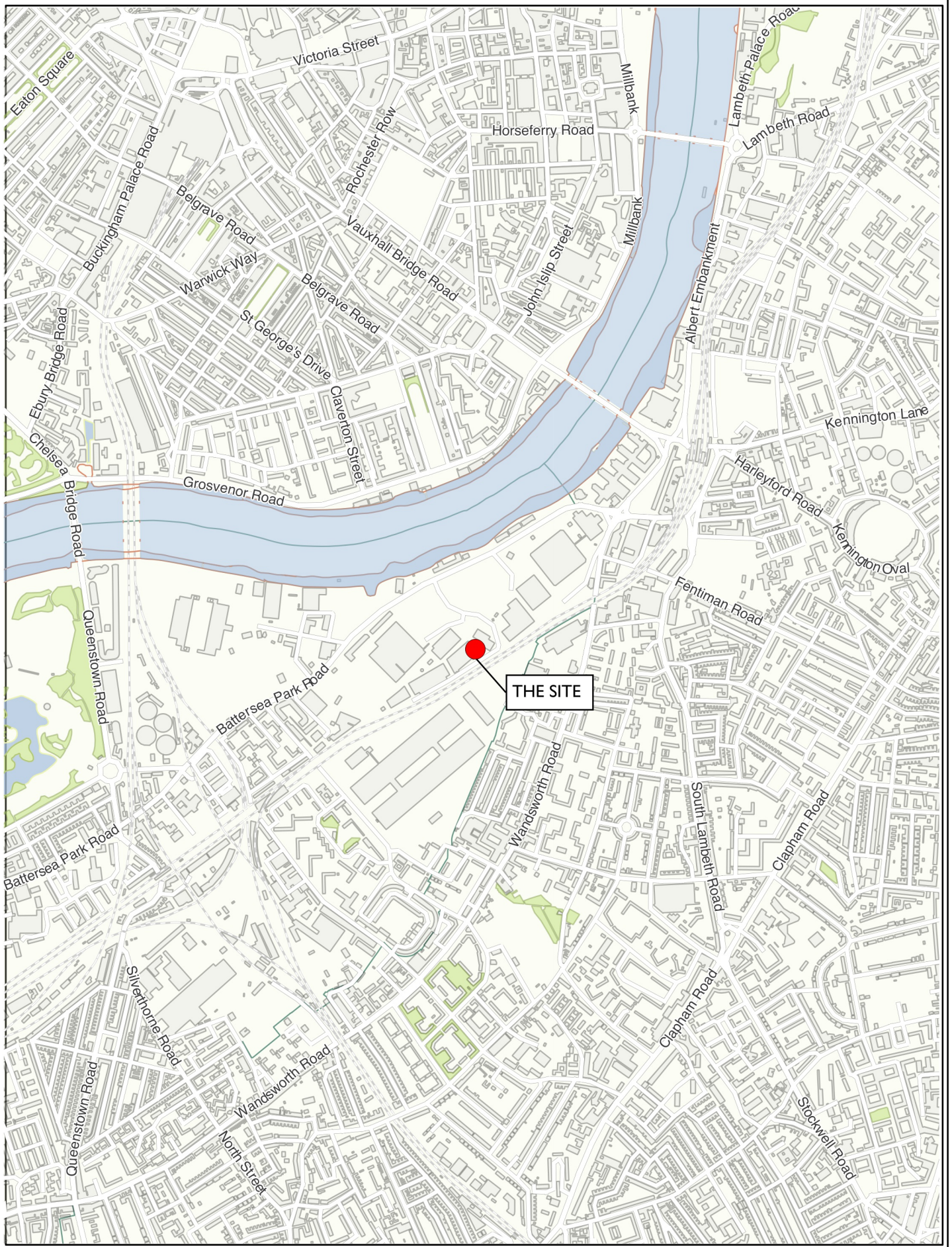
CgMs CONSULTING, 2015b. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation, 40-42 Ponton Road Nine Elms London SW8, Trenches 1-5*. CgMs.

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# FIGURES



FIGURE I // Site Location - General



0 500 m



PROJECT // 1962L - 40-42 Ponton Road

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

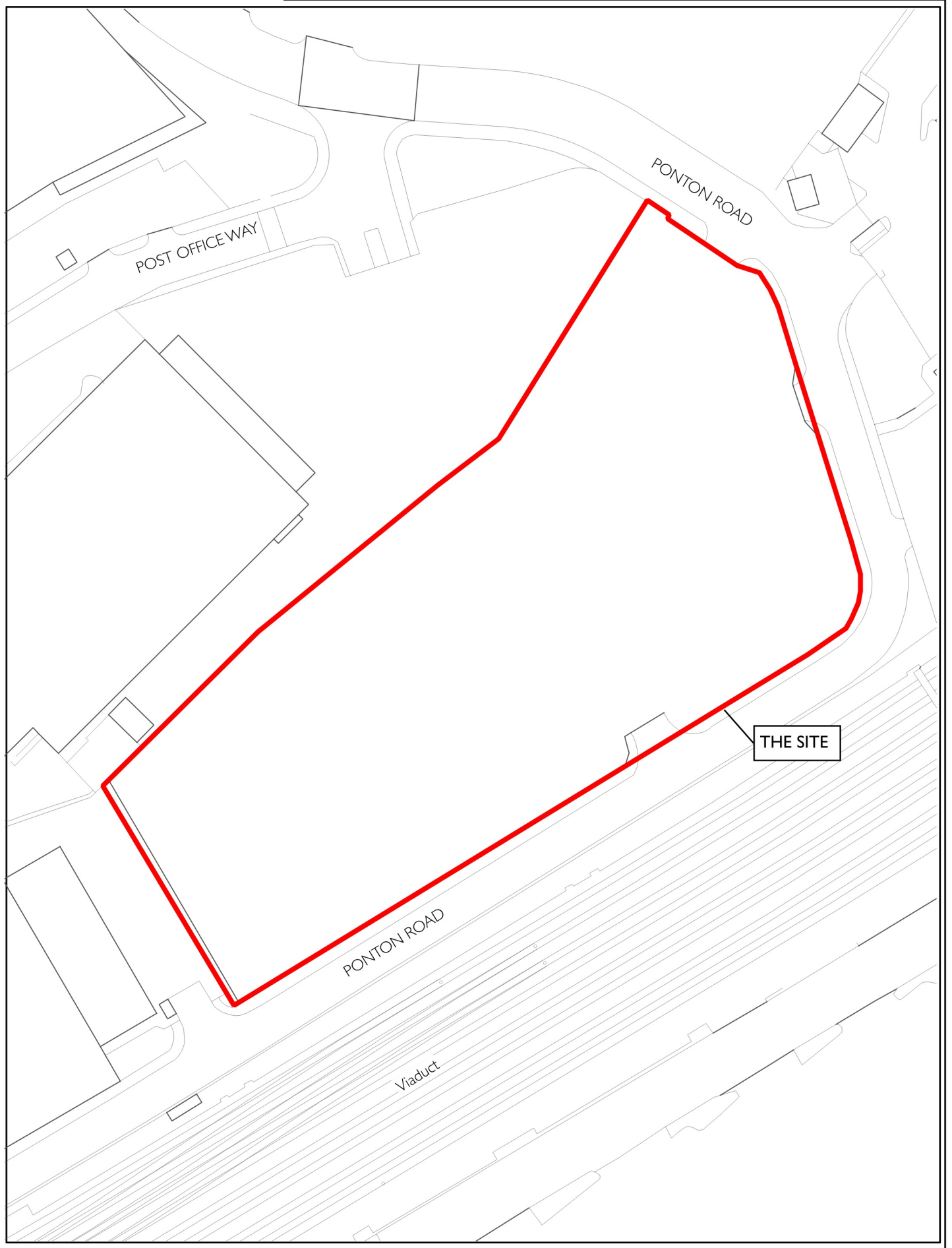
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DOC REF: LPI1962L-AER-v3

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location - Detail



0 50 m



PROJECT // 1962L - 40-42 Ponton Road

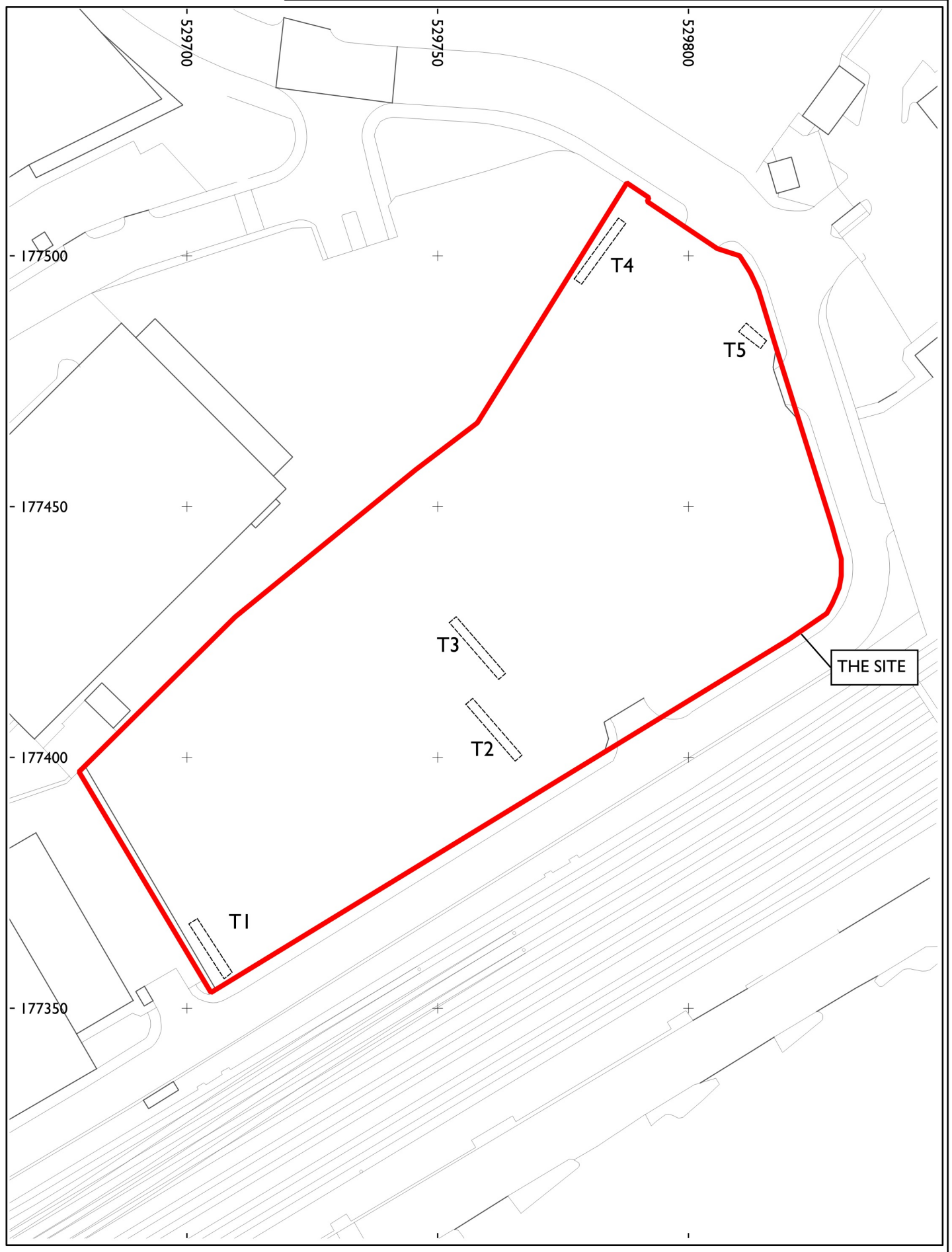
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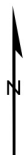
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
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FIGURE 3 // Trench Location



0 20 m



 Excavated Trenches

PROJECT // 1962L - 40-42 Ponton Rd

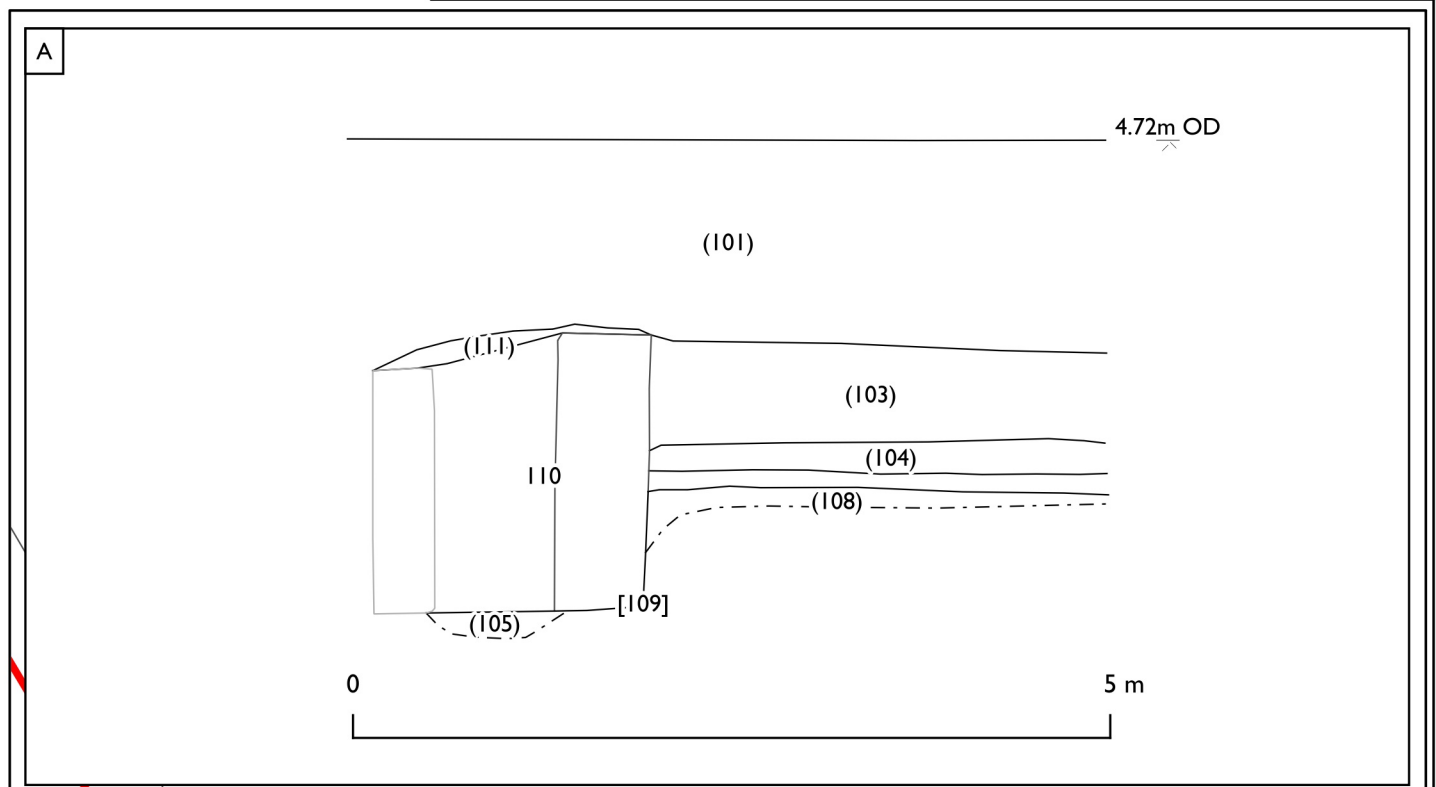
DESCRIPTION // Trench Location

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FIGURE 4 // Trench I Plan and Section



0 5 m

N

PROJECT // 1962L - 40-42 Ponton Road

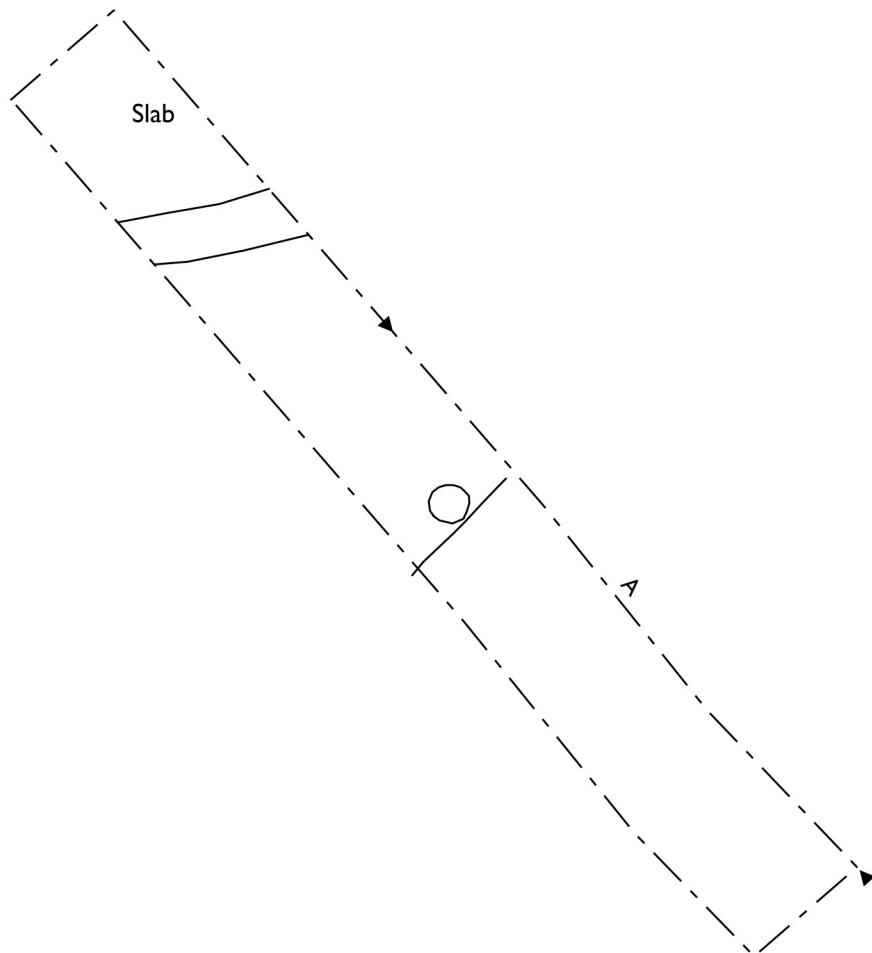
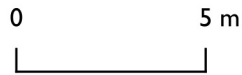
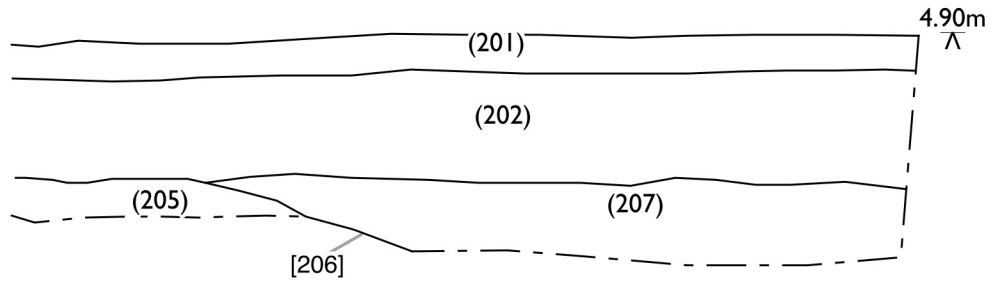
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FIGURE 5 // Trench 2 Plan and Section

A



PROJECT // 1962L - 40-42 Ponton Road

DESCRIPTION // Trench 2 Plan and South West Facing Section

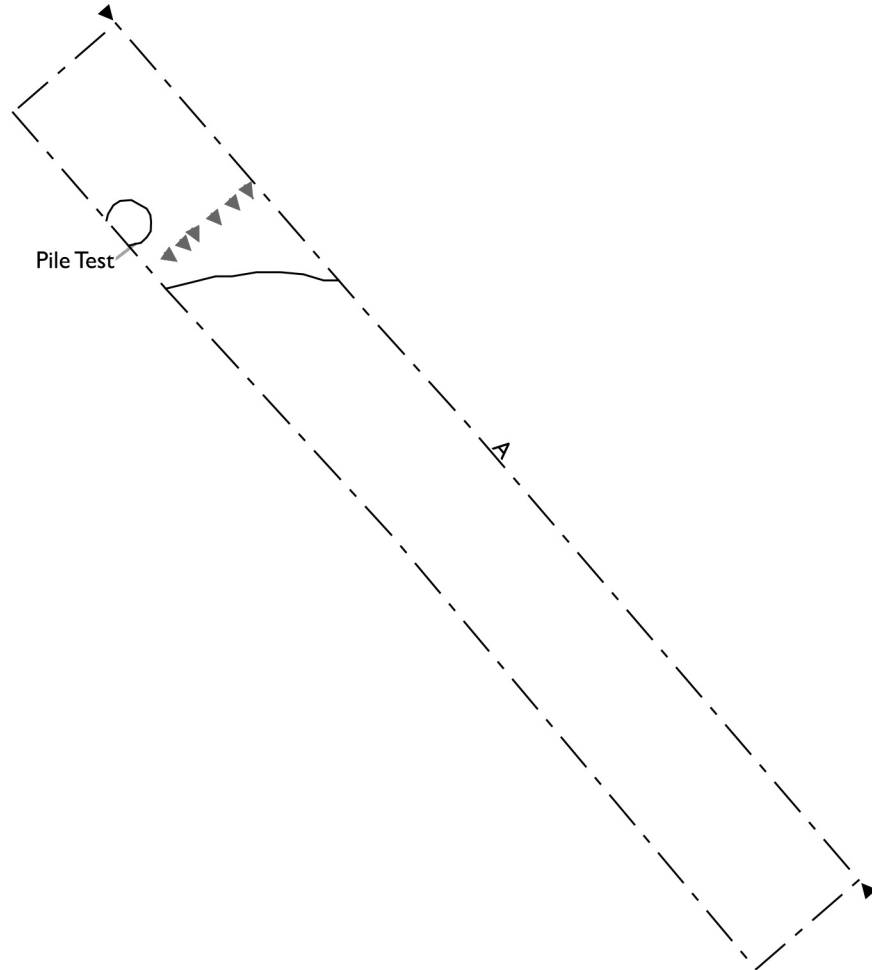
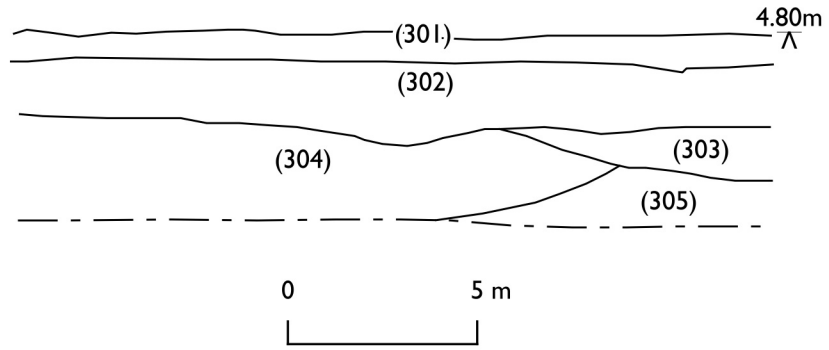
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FIGURE 6 // Trench 3 Plan and Section

B



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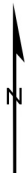
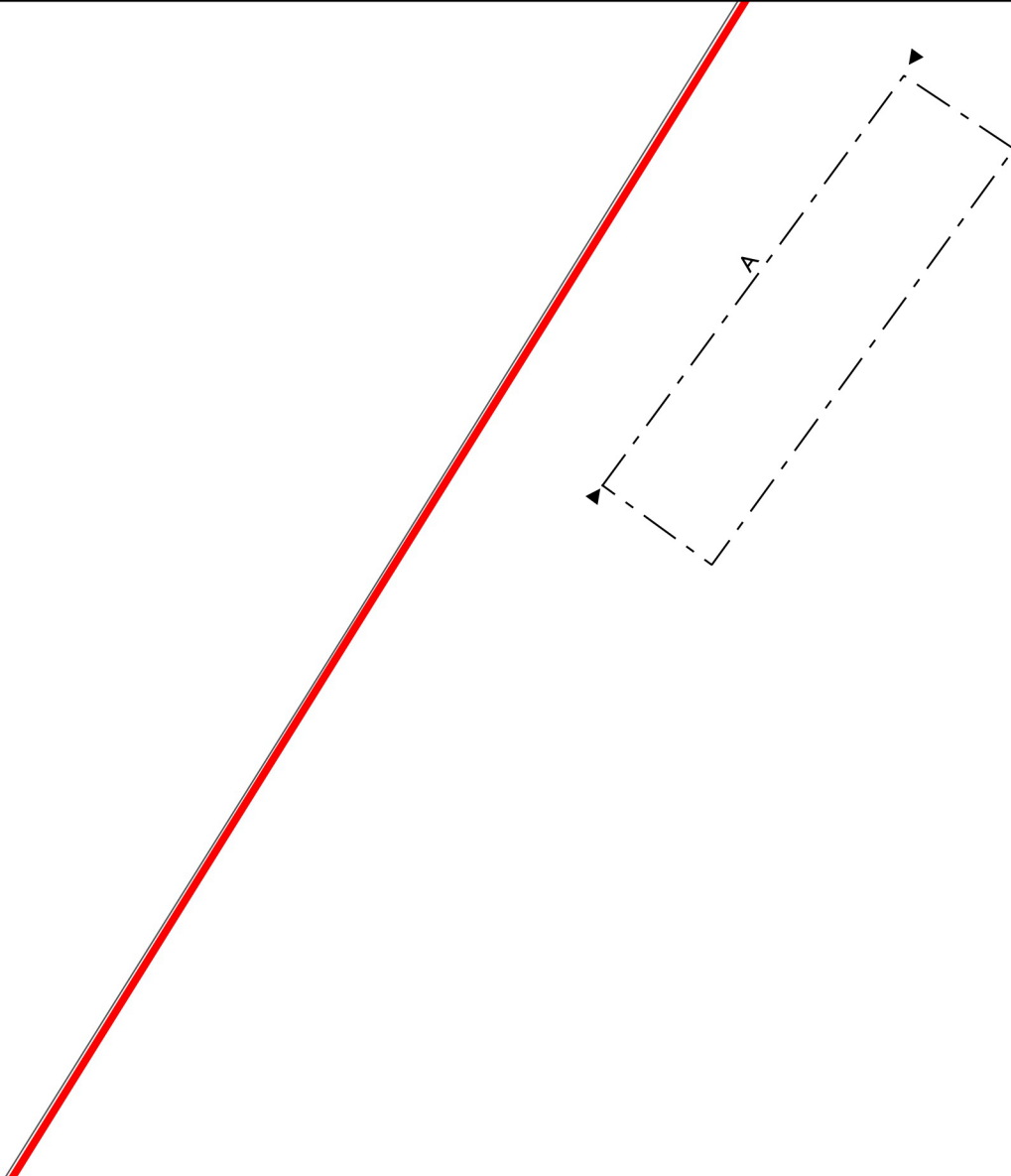
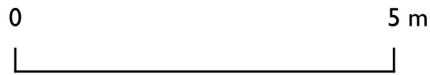
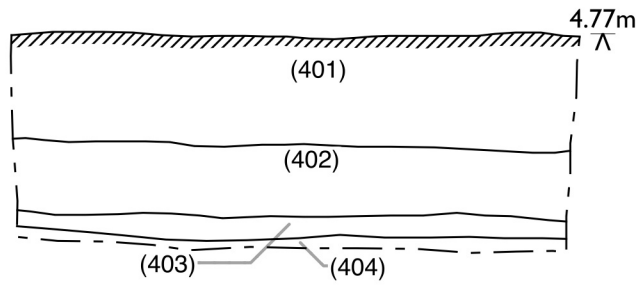
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FIGURE 7 // Trench 4 Plan and Section

A



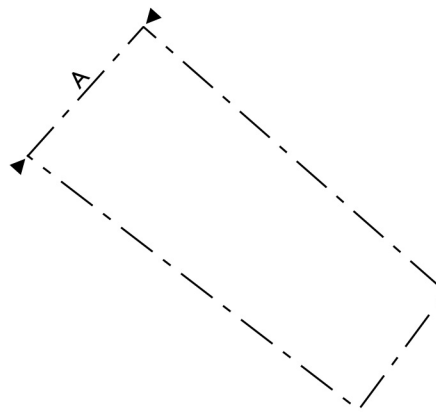
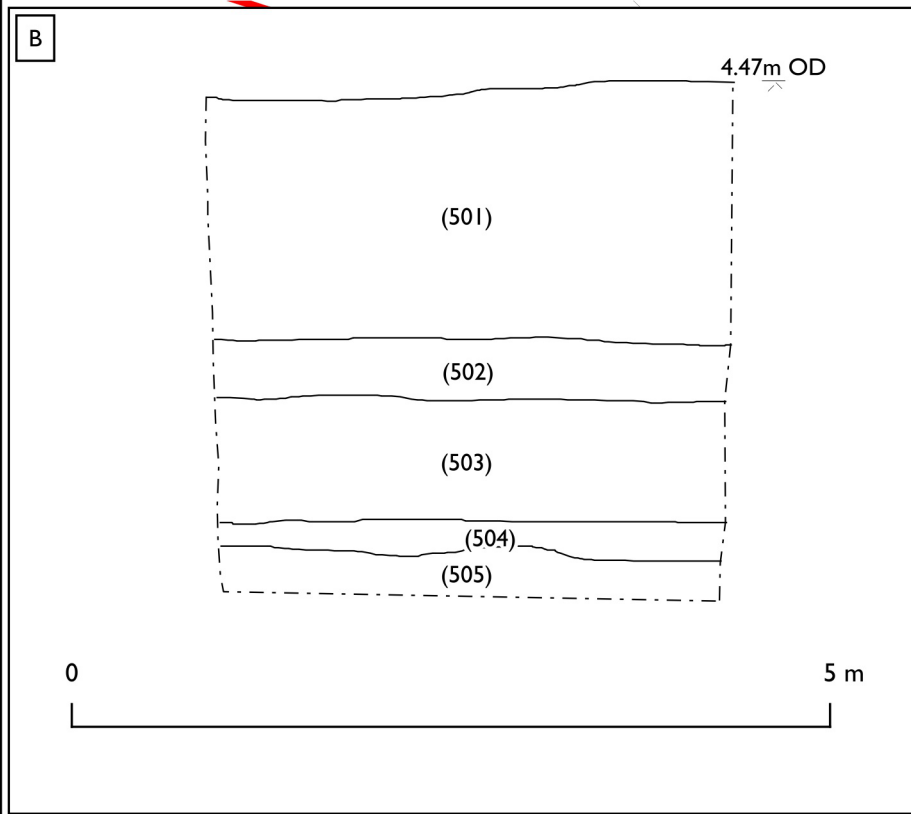
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DESCRIPTION // Trench 4 Plan and South West Facing Section

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FIGURE 8 // Trench 5 Plan and Section



PROJECT // 1962L - 40-42 Ponton Road

DESCRIPTION // Trench 5 Plan and South East Facing Section

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# MATRIX DIAGRAMS

## APPENDIX I

