



**177 GRANGE ROAD  
London SE1**

London Borough of Southwark

Post-excavation assessment

March 2012



**177 Grange Road  
London  
SE1**

GGR12

Post-excavation Report

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## **Executive summary**

This report is intended to inform the reader of the results of the watching brief and excavation at 177 Grange Road. This report will: describe what was found on the site; what post-excavation analysis work has been done so far; what work still needs to be done and why; and how and where the results of the excavation should be made public. The report is written and structured in a particular way to conform with the standards required of post-excavation analysis work as set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991).

A watching brief was carried out on the site on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012, and a subsequent excavation between the 23<sup>rd</sup> January and the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The site was heavily truncated by 19<sup>th</sup> century houses and the factory that occupied the site from the 1950's. Some areas of the site were untruncated, and archaeological cut features and deposits survived.

The site lies to the east of the main Roman Southwark settlement, concentrated on Borough High Street, and to the north of Roman Watling Street. This excavation recorded evidence for Roman agricultural activity in the form of north-south orientated linear ditches dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup>- century AD and a Roman plough soil horizon likely to date to the 4<sup>th</sup>- century AD. There was evidence of a post medieval plough soil dating to the 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>- century AD. The site also contained remains of brick lined pits that would have been associated with the 19<sup>th</sup>- century houses.

This site can provide supporting evidence for the interpretation of Roman agricultural features found on sites in the local area, and for the use of the area up until development in the 19<sup>th</sup>- century AD.

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Site location

The site is located at 177 Grange Road, SE1, hereafter called 'the site'. It is located in the London Borough of Southwark on the east side of Fendall Street. It is bounded by Grange Walk to the north, Grange Road to the south and 34 Grange Walk and 176 Grange Road to the east (Figure 1). The Ordnance Survey National Grid reference is 533483 179207. The existing ground level on Grange Road is c 3.5m OD.

### 1.2 The scope of the project

The proposed development comprises of a five storey building, with an L-shaped basement along the southern and eastern boundaries of the site.

An *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment* (CgMS 2007) was previously written for the site. This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology and the historical background of the site, and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.

A field evaluation was carried out between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007, and an evaluation report written on the findings (MOLA 2007). This document and the previous *Assessment*, informed the design for the excavation (*Written Scheme of Investigation MOLA, 2011*).

### 1.3 Circumstances and dates of fieldwork

The proposed development was given planning consent in July 2011 (Ref: 11/AP/1390). The archaeological watching brief and excavation were undertaken in response to archaeological planning conditions attached to the consent (Conditions 24, 25 and 26).

The archaeological works and the resulting report were commissioned from MOLA by CgMS Ltd on behalf of Linden Homes.

The archaeological watching brief consisted of the monitoring of six geotechnical test pits (Figure 2). The test pits, excavated by Leap Environmental Ltd, were approximately 1m by 2m and up to 3m in depth. They were distributed across the site to test for soil contamination. This was completed on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

Following the results of the watching brief, and the evaluation carried out in 2007, MOLA, CgMS and the Southwark Council Archaeology Officer agreed upon a strategy of strip, map and record. The initial area of excavation (Area A) measured 12m north-east to south-west by 35m north-west to south-east at the top, and was stepped for safety. It was excavated by machine in two strips, each 6m wide (Figure 2). The area of excavation focused on the southern end of the site, which had shown the greatest potential for the survival of archaeology (MoLA 2007). The site was excavated down on to the layer of plough soil identified in the evaluation c 2.30m OD. This was checked for features, and then removed by machine down to the natural level. Modern truncations were removed as much as possible to check for features

underneath, although many extended well below the level of the archaeological deposits.

After the first area had been excavated and archaeological features were recorded, it was decided a second area (Area B) would be opened to the north to identify further features (Figure 2). The area measured approx 12m north-east to south-west by 35m north-west to south-east at the top and was stepped for safety. Due to space on site Area A had to first be backfilled before Area B could be excavated.

The excavation of both areas was completed between 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 by two archaeologists and one senior archaeologist. The features were excavated by hand and recorded in plan, along with sections where required. All but two of the features were excavated one hundred percent.

Locations of the test pits, areas of excavation, and some of the features and sections were located by the MOLA surveyors using GPS. The remainder of the features and section locations were recorded by MOLA archaeologists using a site grid. Levels were calculated from two temporary benchmarks established by the MOLA surveyors using GPS.

#### **1.4 Organisation of the report**

The *Post-excavation assessment and updated project design report* is defined in the relevant GLAAS guidance paper (Paper VI) as intended to 'sum up what is already known and what further work will be required to reach the goal of a well-argued presentation of the results of recording and analysis (VI/1).

The principle underlying the concept of post-excavation assessment and updated project design were established by English Heritage in the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (MAP2), (1991). More recent GLAAS guidance has emphasised the need for this stage to be seen as 'brief and transitional', the document acting as a 'gateway' to further analysis and eventual publication (EH, GLAAS, 1999 VI/1)

This report contains a summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site, based on that provided within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2011) and the *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment* (CgMS 2007). The original research aims are set out in Section 3. The archaeological features and deposits recorded are described in Section 4. This is followed by the quantification and assessment of the finds and environmental assemblages in Section 5, including reports on: the building material (Ian Betts), the Roman pottery (Amy Thorp), the post Roman pottery (Nigel Jeffries), the accessioned finds (Michael Marshall), the botanical samples (Anne Davis) and the animal bone (Alan Pipe). In Sections 6 and 7 the potential and significance of the site are considered.



## 2 Historical and archaeological background

### 2.1 Topography

The geology of the area consists of Pleistocene river terrace gravels overlain by Holocene fluvial sediments. The site lies to the south of an area of relatively high natural ground known as the Bermondsey eyot or island. The site is likely to have been flooded on a regular or at least a seasonal basis from the late Roman period (AD 200–400) until the post-medieval period, when it was drained and protected from flooding by river walls.

### 2.2 Prehistoric

The natural sands of the Bermondsey island attain a maximum height of around 2.20m OD, forming an east-west ridge of high, well-drained ground. Land with these topographical advantages would naturally have been attractive to early settlers. Prehistoric artefacts and evidence of occupation have been discovered on various sites in the area, including the site of the later Bermondsey Abbey. In 1988, to the south and east of Grange Road, in an area formerly known as the Bricklayer's Arms, a Bronze Age brushwood platform, possibly a landing stage or jetty was found on the southern edge of the island. A Bronze Age track way was found at Bramcote Grove also on the edge of the island. At the site of the former Alaska Works, c 105m to the south of the site, several fragments of late Iron age/early Roman pottery and a quantity of burnt flint were recovered during excavations. Previous archaeological investigations on the adjacent site of 170–176 Grange Road (DGLA, 1989) found evidence of Iron Age settlement activity. A pit was found cutting the natural which contained Late Iron Age/early Roman material, including pottery. At 41-45 Grange Walk a residual Neolithic flint flake was recovered.

### 2.3 Roman

The site lies to the south east of the main Roman Southwark settlement, concentrated on Borough High Street, and to the north of the route of Roman Watling Street, which followed the high ground south-east from London to the Kent coast. Roman features, including ditches, pits, and a burial at Croda Works, c 120m to the south-west, have been found along Grange Road. It has been postulated that Grange Road may respect the line of a former Roman road, either side of which was a series of ditched fields and farmsteads. There is an ever-increasing body of evidence for occupation of the area during the Roman period. At the Alaska Works, c 155m to the south-east of the site, a large stretch of Roman ditch was found to have been replaced by a fence line; several large pits may have represented the remains of some sort of external structure. The finds from this site demonstrated a wide range of pottery types, including imported fine wares, and a significant amount of ceramic building material. The Roman assemblage ranges in date from the mid 1<sup>st</sup> to the mid 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, but the majority of the groups are dated to the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century onwards. Roman ditches were recorded at 207–208 Grange Road, c 115m to the west of the site, at 41-45 Grange walk, c 50m north-east of the site and at 161 Grange Road. Previous archaeological investigations on the adjacent site of 170–176 Grange Road recorded a series of linear field gullies. The Roman assemblage contains pottery dating from the mid 1<sup>st</sup> to the mid 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries with the majority of the contexts dating from the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century onwards.

## 2.4 Saxon

The Old English place-name Bermondsey is thought to be derived from 'Beormound's eye (island)' and it may have at one time have belonged to a Saxon lord of that name. Certainly this place-name aptly describes the topography of the area, a low gravel island surrounded by a maze of tidal creeks and marshes, which could have provided seasonal grazing. It could be likely that the rural settlement in the Roman period continued to be used into the Saxon and early medieval periods.

## 2.5 Medieval

The site probably lies within the area of Bermondsey Abbey, and the boundary wall is believed to have run along Grange Road. Grange Road was also a medieval route and the surrounding land was probably in agricultural use throughout the medieval period. A network of agricultural estates centred on farms or granges supported the medieval monastery. A leasehold document from 1548 describes Bermondsey grange as having a hall and dwelling house, kitchen, barns, stables, a parlour and loft and courtyard. There was also a great thatched barn. A barn, or 'great hayhouse', which was presumably attached to the grange, was mentioned in 1541.

Bermondsey Grange was obviously quite a substantial establishment and has yet to be found. The continuance of the road name Grange Walk, Grange Yard and The Grange suggest that it could have been situated in the area of the site.

## 2.6 Post-medieval

In the early post-medieval period most of the area was still low-lying and flood prone and mainly occupied by market gardens and fishponds. Around the site, those areas not built over were extensively cultivated with some surviving indication of the earlier drainage channels. The open land was probably given over to grazing, orchards and market gardening.

From the late 18th century the area was rapidly developed, principally by commercial and industrial premises, and by tenements. The area appears to no longer be used for cultivation, and Bermondsey became a centre for industry, including tanning and leather working as a good supply of animal skins was available from the butchers of London, a plentiful supply of water existed in the many streams running through the area, oak bark could be locally acquired and a ready market for leather existed just over the river in the City. A square pit excavated on the adjacent site of 170–176 Grange Road in 1989 was constructed of horn cores and probably dates from the 18th century. Horn cores are a typical waste product of the tanning industry. Excavations on the site at 168–169 Grange Road in 2003, c 65m to the south-east, revealed two post-medieval brick cellar walls, a brick-lined well, a possible ditch, and a pit also containing horn cores.

By the late 19th century, the site is extensively built up, as shown on the 1877 Ordnance Survey map of that date when a terraced houses and a public house occupied the site (Fig 7). The houses are believed to have basements. The site remained unchanged until the 1950's when the housing was demolished and a surgical supply factory built on the site. This factory had a small basement in the centre of the building.

### 3 Original research aims

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002*

The following archaeological research objectives have been compiled after consultation with appropriate Specialists, and in particular with consideration of the results of previous archaeological investigations both on the site and on other sites in the area.

- What evidence is there for activity on the site prior to the Iron Age activity recorded during the 1989 evaluation of the adjacent site at 170–176 Grange Road?
- Is there any further evidence of Iron Age settlement activity on the site and how does this relate to the evidence recorded during the 1989 evaluation of the adjacent site at 170–176 Grange Road?
- Is there evidence of Roman agricultural activity?
- Is there any evidence of Roman settlement activity?
- Is there any evidence for Grange Road being on the same alignment as a Roman and/or medieval track way?
- Is there any evidence of medieval agricultural activity on the site?
- What is the earliest evidence for industrial activity on site in the post medieval period?
- Does this relate to the remains of the tanning industry as found during the 1989 evaluation of the adjacent site at 170–176 Grange Road?

## 4 Site sequence: interim statement on field work

### 4.1 Introduction

### 4.2 Natural and topography

Natural sand and gravels were recorded across the site, largely truncated by modern interventions down to a level of 1.48m to 1.06m OD. In Test Pits 2, 3 and 4 modern truncation extended down to approx 1.50m OD. Areas of untruncated natural were present on site, at roughly 1.70m OD.

All six of the geotechnical test pits reached a depth of approx 0.50m OD, excavating on average through 1.0m of natural deposits. These natural deposits comprised of bands of yellow and orange sand and fine yellow gravel.

Where untruncated the natural was overlain by a subsoil [18], which contained pottery dating to the 4<sup>th</sup>-century AD. This subsoil was light grey orange sandy silt, between 0.05m and 0.15m thick with a surface height between 1.70 and 1.80m OD (Figure 6).

### 4.3 Roman

Roman deposits cut into the subsoil survived in Areas A and B where not truncated by later disturbance. In Area A were four linear features orientated roughly north-south, one circular pit, one post hole and one irregular linear feature. In Area B were the continuation of two of the linear features from Area A, and one post hole (Figure 3).

Three of the north-south linear features [1], [13] and [22] were large ditches with U-shaped profiles (Figure 4 & Figure 5). Linear [1] was recorded in Area A, and measured 1.10m wide, 0.30m deep and extended 11m north-south (Figure 3). The height at the top of the feature was 1.70m OD. Containing pottery dating from AD 150 – 300 and building material dating to AD 120 – 160, a 2<sup>nd</sup>- century date can be ascribed. Circular pit [5] was cut through this ditch in the centre of site, and was filled with the same material. The ditch [13] was heavily truncated, appearing in Area A and B (context [34] in Area B) in small isolated sections. It had a width of 1.50m and a depth of 0.60m, with the top of the feature at 1.87m OD (Figure 10). Again the pottery found within this feature dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-century AD. Linear [22] again was heavily truncated and appeared in both Area A and B (context [36] in Area B). It was larger than the previous two, with a width of 2.40m and a depth of 0.60m. The height at the top of the feature was 1.86m OD. This contained pottery dating from 250 – 400 AD, and building material dating from AD 50 – 160, and so was possibly in use slightly later than the other linears.

The fourth north-south linear was a small gully [16] (Figure 5). It only appeared in Area A, and measured 1.80m truncated length, 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep. The height at the top of the feature was 1.78m OD. This gully was truncated to the west by the larger ditch [13]. The pottery from this feature had roughly the same date as the others, AD 50 – 300.

The three ditches appear to be boundary or drainage ditches that would have divided the land in the Roman period. The smaller gully is possibly an earlier drainage gully.

The irregular feature [12] was at the east end of Area A, and was interpreted as a curving cut feature, possibly the corner of a boundary ditch (Figure 9). The northern end of the feature continued into the eastern limit of excavation (Figure 6). It measured 4.50m in length, 0.20m deep and a maximum of 2.20m wide at the section. The height at the top of the feature was 1.72m OD. This feature contained a moderate amount of burnt flint, and late Roman Alice Holt/Farnham ware pottery. There were also two pieces of pottery that were not securely dated, possibly thought to be medieval but could be earlier.

Two small isolated post holes were also recorded, one in Area A and one in Area B. Post hole [26] in Area A measured 0.27m in diameter and 0.20m deep, at a height of 1.72m OD. It was filled with a light brown silty sand containing pottery dating to AD 120 – 250. Post hole [39] in Area B measured 0.50m in diameter and 0.32m deep, at a height of 1.65m OD. It was also filled with a light brown silty sand. These post holes were some distance from each other and could not be attributed to a structure. It is however likely that there would have been others on the site now truncated away by modern disturbance.

All of these features were filled with similar brown/grey silty sand which was fairly sterile, suggesting the features were open for some time and the fills accumulated through slumping and silting. The small amount of environmental remains recovered from the botanical samples also supports a low level of waste disposal in the features.

All these features were covered by a layer of brown silt sand [8] (Figure 5 & Figure 6). This was interpreted as a plough soil and contained Roman pottery and building material dating to the late 2<sup>nd</sup>- to 4<sup>th</sup>- centuries. It had a maximum thickness of 0.60m, and would have extended across the whole site. It was only recorded in areas where there was no truncation, mainly the east and west ends of Area A and B, and the central part of the southern edge of site, above ditch [13] (Figure 3). It was also recorded in Test Pits 1, 5, and 6. The surface level of this varied between 2.19m and 2.45m OD. This plough soil was very similar to the upper fills of the previously mentioned features. It is also possibly that this later cultivation of the site truncated the upper part of the features.

#### **4.4 Saxon**

There was no evidence for Saxon deposits on site.

#### **4.5 Medieval**

There was no evidence for medieval deposits on site.

#### **4.6 Post Medieval**

Post Medieval deposits were recorded in both Areas A and B. A small feature [11] was recorded in section at the east end of site, cut through the plough soil [8] (Figure 6). The feature was interpreted as a post hole, measuring 0.48m wide and 0.32m deep. The highest point of the feature was at 2.30m OD. No finds were retrieved and so a definite date cannot be assigned.

Above this feature, and across the entire site was a layer of dark brown plough soil [7], which was heavily truncated by later activity. It had a maximum depth of 0.48m, and a surface height of between 2.40m and 2.55m OD. This was likely to have formed during cultivation in the 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>- centuries, as it contained sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> century Delftware, London Stoneware and Metropolitan Slipware and building material broadly dating to AD 1666 – 1900.

Three further Post Medieval features were recorded on site, although they were isolated and heavily truncated and as such could not be tied into any other stratigraphy. In Area A was a small irregular pit [24], filled with a dark brown silty material. It measured 1.48m north-south, 0.95m east-west and 0.18m deep, with a height of 1.74m OD. It contained building material and pottery dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, along with fragments of animal bone. This was likely to have been a rubbish pit, although only the base of the feature remained and so was not possible to interpret further.

In Area B two brick lined pits were recorded, [30] and [33] (Figure 3). Both were heavily truncated with only the lower courses remaining. Both were constructed of yellow brick, with no bonding material and had a diameter of 1.15m. The top of the truncated bricks were at a level of 1.59m OD and 1.46m OD, and were 0.30m and 0.11m deep respectively. They were both filled with a black silty material and household debris such as 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, glass, buttons, broken ceramic figurines, clay pipe, and animal bone. The glass has been identified as good quality table ware. These are likely to have been soak aways associated with the 19<sup>th</sup>- or 20<sup>th</sup>- century housing on the site, and appear to be located in the back gardens of the houses.

## 5 Quantification and assessment

### 5.1 Post-excavation review

The following tasks have been completed as part of the post-excavation assessment

- Site matrix established and checked
- Plans digitised
- Photographs cross referenced and indexed
- Ceramic dating
- Environmental and finds assessments completed

There are no further stages of analysis.

### 5.2 The site archive and assessment: stratigraphic

| Type               | Description        | Quantity | Notes                      |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| <b>Contexts</b>    | Excavation         | 39       | 1-39                       |
| <b>Plans</b>       | 'A4' 1:20          | 18       | Number of sheets           |
| <b>Sections</b>    | 'A4' 1:20 and 1:10 | 4        | Number of drawings         |
| <b>Matrices</b>    |                    | Yes      | Paper copy                 |
| <b>Photographs</b> |                    | 42       | Colour digital photographs |

*Table 1: Stratigraphic Archive*

### 5.3 Site archive and assessment: finds and environmental

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Building material     | 19 fragments. (3 fragments retained)      |
| Roman pottery         | 27 sherds                                 |
| Medieval pottery      | 2 sherds. Total 0.01kg                    |
| Post Medieval pottery | 28 sherds. Total 1.10 kg                  |
| Accessioned finds     | 8 objects                                 |
| Bulk Soil Samples     | Flots from 3 samples; no unprocessed soil |
| Animal Bone           | Estimated 18 fragments. Total 0.91kg      |

*Table 2: Finds & Environmental Archive General Summary*

### 5.3.1 The building material

By Ian Betts

A total of 19 fragments of building material were recovered from the site (contexts [4], [7], [8], [15], [23], [25] and [35]) (Table 3). These comprise mainly Roman roofing tile and brick and post-medieval peg and pantile. A Roman box-flue and post-medieval brick is also present.

| Context | Fabric     | Type                  | Context date   |
|---------|------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| [4]     | 2815       | Brick                 | AD50–160       |
| [7]     | 2587, 3202 | Pantile               | 1666–1900      |
|         | 3032       | Brick                 |                |
| [8]     | 2454       | Tegula                | AD50–160       |
|         | 2815       | Imbrex                |                |
|         | 3500       | Flue                  |                |
| [15]    | 3203       | Peg roofing?          | 1630/1700–1900 |
| [23]    | 2815       | Brick, imbrex, tegula | AD50–160       |
| [25]    | 2271, 2816 | Peg roofing           | 1480–1800      |
| [35]    | 2815       | Brick                 | AD50–160       |

Table 3: summary of the building material in each context

#### 5.3.1.1 Roman

The majority of Roman building material is roofing tile and brick in fabric group 2815. These red tiles were probably made at a tiliary situated in or near to London during the period AD50–160. There is also a red early–mid 2nd century combed box-flue tile from context [8] in the same fabric group. Found with the box-flue was a pink coloured tegula (fabric 2454) believed to be from the Eccles area of north Kent. This is probably AD 50–80 in date.

Based on thickness (32–38mm) all the Roman bricks are probably of *bessalis*, *pedalis* or *lydion* type.

#### 5.3.1.2 Medieval

No medieval building material could be identified.

#### 5.3.1.3 Post-medieval

The majority of post-medieval building material comprises a few pieces of peg and pantile roofing. The pantile is unlikely to be any earlier in date than AD 1630. One piece of flat tile (context 15) is in a pantile fabric (type 3203) but appears to be a peg tile. The unusual white speckled fabric suggests it was brought in from somewhere outside the immediate London area, perhaps Kent or possibly the Netherlands. The brick from context [7] is post- AD 1666, but too little survives to say anything further.



#### 5.3.1.4 Discussion

The building material assemblage is typical of that found on many other Southwark and City sites. The lack of any evidence for medieval building material fits in well with other available evidence which suggests the land surrounding Grange Road was probably in agricultural use throughout the medieval period.

There is little evidence for high status buildings, with the exception of a solitary combed box-flue tile from a Roman masonry building.

#### 5.3.1.5 Assessment work outstanding

None.

### 5.3.2 The pottery

#### 5.3.2.1 Roman pottery

By Amy Thorp

A total assemblage of 27 sherds was recovered from ten contexts at the site. The pottery is in reasonable condition with minimal abrasion and medium sized sherds. The small quantities of material from each context have resulted in wide date ranges. However, it is still clear that there are two concentrations (late Roman and 2nd-century AD dates). The late Roman contexts [9] and [37] are dated on sherds of Alice Holt/Farnham ware (AHFA), while context [18] is AD 270-400 on a sherd from a Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated ware bowl with rouletted decoration (OXRC 4 ROD). The 2nd-century AD material is indicated by the presence of central Gaulish samian (SAMCG) or black-burnished wares in combination with Highgate Wood ware C (HWC). All fabrics and forms are typical of their respective periods and this area of London.

#### 5.3.2.2 The medieval and later pottery

By Nigel Jeffries

Weighing 1120 grammes, up to 30 sherds from a minimum number of 14 vessels (ENV) were recovered in four contexts ([7], [9], [25] and [31]): the assemblage therefore consists of four small-sized groups (contexts yielding fewer than 30 sherds).

The identification of the two sherds of medieval pottery in [9] remains questionable; one sherd is burnt the other is an abraded shell tempered ware and was found alongside larger quantities of Roman pottery. The post-medieval pottery is the more common with 28 sherds located in [7], [25] and [31], with [7] and [25] 17th-century dated on the basis of London made delftware (TGWA) and stoneware (LONS) in addition to Essex sourced metropolitan slipware (METS). Context [31] contains a range of crockery thrown away during the second quarter of the 19th century, with refined white ware with blue transfer-printed decoration dominant in a range of prints such as the common willow and wild rose pattern together with a wash bowl or chamber pot bearing the printed pattern name 'Chinese Villa'. This group is completed by a green transfer-printed tureen lid with the pattern presenting a game bird against an oriental landscape.

### 5.3.2.3 Assessment work outstanding

None.

### 5.3.3 The accessioned finds

By Michael Marshall

|        | Roman | Post Medieval | Unknown |
|--------|-------|---------------|---------|
| Stone  |       | 1             |         |
| Glass  | 1     | 4             |         |
| Copper |       |               | 1       |
| Bone   |       |               | 1       |
| Total  | 1     | 5             | 2       |

Table 4: Summary of the date and type of accessioned finds

#### 5.3.3.1 Introduction

A small assemblage of eight accessioned finds, mostly glass, and an iron nail shaft were recovered from the site (Table 4). The assemblage has been recorded according to standard MOLA practice and a full catalogue forms part of the project archive.

#### 5.3.3.2 Discussion

The datable components of the assemblage can be divided chronologically into Roman and Post Medieval. Only one accessioned object is undated <5>, [23] is an unidentifiable bent fragment of copper alloy shaft, probably from a pin or needle. A single fragment of iron nail shaft was recovered from [25]. This is too badly corroded to identify the construction technology with certainty and is thus undatable.

The Roman assemblage comprises a single sherd of natural blue green glass <4>, [15]. This is most likely from a 1st to 2nd century bottle of Isings form 50 or 51 (as Cottam and Price 1998, 191-5) but the sherd is too small to definitively identify it so a general date of AD 43-410 must stand.

The Post Medieval assemblage is of more interest and comes from two contexts [28] and [31]. Context [28] produced stems from two colourless small wine glasses. The more diagnostic example <2> has an angular knopped stem and faceted bowl and belongs to the early 19th century, with examples elsewhere dated to the first quarter of the 19th century c 1815 (e.g. Noel Hume 1969, 190 no XXV.) The other glass has an inverted baluster knopped stem and a moulded bowl. This is less complete and thus diagnostic but could belong to the same period. Also from the same context is a stone stylus <6>

Two colourless/opaque white glass objects came from [31]. The first <3> is part of a ring necked decanter, a piece of very late 18th or early 19th century tableware dating to perhaps c 1780-1830 but insufficiently complete for full identification (cf examples in Davis 1972 for the type). The second <8> is a bowl shaped fitting probably from a lamp or candlestick or candelabra. This has a central hole to allow the shaft to pass through, a serrated upper edge and a broad band of decoration with relief foliate

scrolls and stars against a pounced field. The decoration is wholly appropriate for the early 19th century. Further research could help to clarify the identification. The context also produced a fragment of a one piece double sided ivory comb with equally fine teeth on both sides <7>. It is of a simple round ended 'nit comb' form perfectly acceptable for a 19th century context, though used intermittently from the Roman period onwards.

#### 5.3.3.3 Assessment work outstanding

None.

### 5.3.4 The botanical samples

By Anne Davis

#### 5.3.4.1 Introduction/methodology

Four bulk samples, [27] {1}, [15] {2}, [23] {3} and [38] {4}, ranging from 10 to 30 litres in volume, were taken for environmental analysis.

The samples were processed by flotation, using meshes of 0.25mm and 1.00mm to catch the flots and residue. The residues were sorted by eye for any finds or environmental material and flots were briefly scanned using a low-powered binocular microscope. No flots were produced from sample [38] {4}. The abundance, diversity and general nature of plant macrofossils and faunal remains were recorded on the MoLAS Oracle database. The botanical information is summarised in Table 5.

#### 5.3.4.2 Charred remains

Occasional small fragments of charcoal were seen in all the sample flots, as were occasional charred cereal grains, although these were in poor condition. Grains of free-threshing wheat (*T. aestivum/turgidum/durum*), oats (*Avena* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were all seen, but in no sample did they outnumber six or seven grains. Other charred remains were limited to single seeds of brome (*Bromus* sp.) in {2} and stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) in {3}.

#### 5.3.4.3 Waterlogged and mineralised remains

A moderately large assemblage of waterlogged seeds was preserved in sample [23] {3}, deriving mostly from wild plants of wetland and disturbed-ground habitats. These included quite abundant oogonia of stoneworts (*Chara* sp.) which grow submerged under water, although some can survive short periods of drying out (Moore 1986, 5). Seeds of spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis*), sedges (*Carex* spp.) and gipsy-wort (*Lycopus europaeus*) represent bank-side or shallow water environments. Also quite common were seeds of weld (*Reseda luteola*), a native plant of grassland and disturbed habitats (Stace 1991, 343) which was also commonly used in the past to produce a yellow dye. While no other botanical evidence for dyeing was found it is conceivable that the plant was grown as a crop. Other plants represented in this sample included sun spurge (*Euphorbia helioscopia*), tormentil (*Potentilla* cf. *erecta*), buttercups (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*) and wild cabbage/turnip/mustard (*Brassica/Sinapis* sp.), all of which may have grown on either cultivated land or waste ground.

Occasional waterlogged seeds in sample [15] {2} included similar taxa to those from {3}, but very few were preserved in sample [27] {1}.

#### *5.3.4.4 Faunal remains*

The only faunal remains recovered from the samples were very occasional large mammal bones and freshwater molluscs from sample [23] {3}.

#### *5.3.4.5 Artefactual remains*

Occasional pottery and burnt flint were recovered from samples [15] {2} and [23] {3}, and small quantities of clinker, coal and slag were seen in all three.

#### *5.3.4.6 Assessment work outstanding*

None.

|         |        |    |        |               |             |      | chd grain | chd seed | chd wood | wlg seed | wlg misc |  |
|---------|--------|----|--------|---------------|-------------|------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| context | sample | Bl | dating | proc vol<br>l | flot vol ml | Proc | A D       | A D      | A D      | A D      | A D      | comments   |
| 15      | 2      |    | 0-0    | 30            | 10          | F    | 1 1       | 1 1      | 1 1      | 1 1      | 1 1      | DRY. C.4<br>CHD<br>GRAINS,<br>WLG WEED<br>SEEDS          |
| 23      | 3      |    | 0-0    | 30            | 10          | F    | 1 1       | 1 1      | 1 1      | 3 2      | 1 1      | DRY. WLG<br>WET &<br>WASTELAND<br>PLANTS, 3<br>CHD GRAIN |
| 27      | 1      |    |        | 10            | 5           | F    | 1 1       |          | 1 1      | 1 1      |          | DRY. C.6<br>CHD<br>GRAINS, V<br>POOR<br>CONDITION        |
| 38      | 4      |    |        | 20            | 0           | F    |           |          |          |          |          | NO FLOT  |

Table 5: Summary of botanical assessment data from environmental samples

(A: abundance, D: diversity. 1 = occasional, 2 = moderate, 3 = abundant)

### 5.3.5 The animal bone

By Alan Pipe

#### 5.3.10.1 Introduction/methodology

This report identifies, quantifies and interprets the hand-collected animal bone from contexts [2] – [37]; and wet-sieved animal bone from [23] {3}. Each context and sample group was recorded directly onto Excel spreadsheets in terms of weight (kg), estimated fragment count, species, carcass-part, fragmentation, preservation, modification, and the recovery of epiphyses, mandibular tooth rows, measurable bones, complete long bones, and sub-adult age groups. The assemblage was not recorded as individual fragments or identified to skeletal element. All identifications referred to the MOLA reference collection; and Schmid 1972. Fragments not identifiable to species or genus level were generally allocated to an approximate category, particularly 'ox (cattle)-sized' and 'sheep-sized', as appropriate.

#### 5.3.10.6 Summary

This assemblage provided 0.910 kg, estimated 18 fragments, of generally well-preserved hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone with a minimum fragment size generally between 25 and >75 mm. The hand-collected bone produced 0.710 kg, estimated 17 fragments; the wet-sieved assemblage produced 0.200 kg, one fragment (Table 7).

The hand-collected included adult and juvenile ox (cattle) *Bos taurus* [2], [15], [25], [37]; 'ox (cattle)-sized' [9], [15], [25], sheep/goat [25] including sheep *Ovis aries* [6], and 'sheep-sized' [9] fragments, with single recoveries of pig *Sus scrofa* from [25] and horse *Equus caballus* innominate (pelvis) from [37].

Wet-sieved sample [23] {3} produced a fragment of adult horse mandible (lower jaw) only.

There was no recovery of fish, amphibians, reptiles, poultry, 'game', small mammals or other wild species. There were no foetal, neonate or infant animals. There was no recovery of human bone.

The bulk of the assemblage probably derived from butchery and post-consumption waste (Table 6). Cattle were represented by elements of the mandible (lower jaw) [2]; vertebra [9], [15], [25]; lower leg [15], [25], [37]; areas of good (mandible, lower leg) and prime (vertebra) meat-bearing quality. Ovicaprids were represented by sheep horn core [6] and areas of good meat-bearing quality; sheep-sized rib [9]; and sheep/goat lower leg [25]. Pig was represented by a fragment of lower leg, an area of good meat-bearing quality. Clear evidence of butchery was seen on lower leg of cattle and pig [25]. A sheep horn core from [6] showed transverse chopping through the base, clear evidence of preliminary preparation for removal of the horn sheath for further working. There was no evidence for bone working, or for burning, gnawing, pathological change or any other modification.

The group produced very little evidence for age at death of the major domesticates with only one (horse) mandibular tooth row and two epiphyses; there were no measurable or complete long bones.

## 5.3.10.7 Assessment work outstanding

None

| CONTEXT | SAMPLE | TAXON             | PART       | AGE      | MODIFICATION |
|---------|--------|-------------------|------------|----------|--------------|
| 2       | 0      | ox (cattle)       | Mandible   |          |              |
| 6       | 0      | sheep             | horn core  | adult    | Worked       |
| 9       | 0      | ox (cattle)-sized | vertebra   |          |              |
| 9       | 0      | sheep-sized       | rib        |          |              |
| 15      | 0      | ox (cattle)       | calcaneum  | juvenile |              |
| 15      | 0      | ox (cattle)       | tibia      |          |              |
| 15      | 0      | ox (cattle)-sized | rib        |          |              |
| 15      | 0      | ox (cattle)-sized | vertebra   |          |              |
| 23      | 3      | horse             | mandible   | adult    |              |
| 25      | 0      | ox (cattle)       | tibia      |          | Butchered    |
| 25      | 0      | ox (cattle)-sized | vertebra   |          |              |
| 25      | 0      | pig               | ulna       |          | Butchered    |
| 25      | 0      | sheep/goat        | tibia      |          |              |
| 37      | 0      | horse             | innominate |          |              |
| 37      | 0      | ox (cattle)       | calcaneum  |          |              |

*Table 6: Detailed summary of the hand-collected context groups and wet-sieved sample groups in terms of species, carcass-part, modification and the recovery of sub-adult age group*

| CONTEXT      | SAMPLE | WT (kg)     | FRAG (mm) | PRES     | NOS       | LMAM      | SMAM     | FISH     | BIRD     | AMPH     | MAND     | MEAS     | EPI      | COMPLETE |
|--------------|--------|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2            | 0      | 0.1         | >75       | good     | 1         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| 6            | 0      | 0.05        | >75       | good     | 1         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| 9            | 0      | 0.01        | 25-75     | good     | 2         | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| 15           | 0      | 0.15        | 25-75     | good     | 6         | 6         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2        | 0        |
| 23           | 3      | 0.2         | 25-75     | good     | 1         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| 25           | 0      | 0.3         | >75       | moderate | 5         | 5         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| 37           | 0      | 0.1         | >75       | moderate | 2         | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |        | <b>0.91</b> |           |          | <b>18</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> |

*Table 7: Summary of the hand-collected context groups and wet-sieved sample groups in terms of weight (kg), estimated fragment count, fragmentation, preservation, faunal composition, and the recovery of evidence for ageing and stature*



## 6 Potential of the data

### 6.1 Realisation of the original research aims

- What evidence is there for activity on the site prior to the Iron Age activity recorded during the 1989 evaluation of the adjacent site at 170–176 Grange Road?

There was no evidence on site for activity prior to the Iron Age.

- Is there any further evidence of Iron Age settlement activity on the site and how does this relate to the evidence recorded during the 1989 evaluation of the adjacent site at 170–176 Grange Road?

There was no evidence for Iron Age activity on the site.

- Is there evidence of Roman agricultural activity?

The site provided evidence for Roman agriculture in the form of large north-south features. All had similar profiles, and interpreted as boundary or drainage ditches. It is likely this area was divided into small plots for cultivation during the 2<sup>nd</sup>- century AD, and then in the later Roman period the land was ploughed for larger scale agriculture.

- Is there any evidence of Roman settlement activity?

There was no direct evidence of Roman settlement on site; however a number of pieces of Roman tile were recovered from the fill of one of the features, suggesting a building nearby.

The postholes could also be interpreted as part of a structure, although their isolated locations mean no further interpretation can be formed.

- Is there any evidence for Grange Road being on the same alignment as a Roman and/or medieval track way?

No Roman or Medieval track way was found on site.

- Is there any evidence of medieval agricultural activity on the site?

There was no evidence for medieval agricultural activity on site, although the presence of two horizons of plough soil dating to the Roman period and then the post medieval period indicates that it is likely agriculture would have taken place during the medieval period. It is possible that later post medieval cultivation truncated any medieval horizons.

Additionally the lack of medieval building material suggests that there were no buildings in the vicinity of the site and that the land surrounding Grange Road was probably in agricultural use throughout the medieval period.

- What is the earliest evidence for industrial activity on site in the Post Medieval period?

There was no evidence for industrial activity on site. The presence of 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>-century plough soil across the site suggests the area was used for agriculture not industry during this time, and that any industrial activity was contained to neighbouring sites.

- Does this relate to the remains of the tanning industry as found during the 1989 evaluation of the adjacent site at 170–176 Grange Road?

There was no evidence for industrial activity on site.

## 6.2 General discussion of potential

177 Grange Road was heavily truncated by the presence and subsequent demolition of the 19<sup>th</sup> century houses in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Further truncation occurred during the construction and demolition works associated with the later factory. Both the housing and the factory had basements, as such large areas of the site were truncated into natural, below the level of any archaeological deposits.

However in areas that were not truncated there were a number of deposits and archaeological cut features present. A series of north-south linear features were dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>- to 4<sup>th</sup>- centuries AD, and interpreted as boundary or drainage ditches. The ditches were likely to have silted up over time, with the upper parts of the features being backfilled by the plough soil that covered the site from the late Roman period. It is possible that the land was dived by the ditches up until the 4<sup>th</sup> century, where the site was cultivated on a larger scale. The site therefore has the potential to answer the research question regarding evidence for Roman agricultural activity on the site. It also supports and adds to the interpretation of features found on neighbouring sites, such as the ditches found at 207 – 208, 170 – 176 and 161 Grange Road. Unfortunately no definite Iron Age dating material was recovered from the site, as such there was no evidence for earlier activity.

The later archaeological deposits and cut features seen on the site support the known history of the area understood from the historic maps. The horizon of the post medieval plough soil shows that agriculture took place on the site up until development in the 19<sup>th</sup>- century.

The assemblage of pottery and building material from the site is typical of that found in the area and has no potential for further study. Although it has the potential to support interpretations of neighbouring sites.

The accessioned finds have no potential for further research but provides some low resolution dating evidence. The Post Medieval assemblage contains several pieces of tableware and other mixed domestic material which provide some information about life in the area demonstrating literacy and the use of good quality glass objects. It is possible that x-ray may allow <5> to be identified, but is likely not to help in the dating or interpretation of the feature from which it originated.

The water logged plant remains found within the botanical samples have some potential to indicate the natural environment in the area of the site, and hint at

agricultural/horticultural activities taking place locally. The charred cereal remains in the samples indicate a low level of waste disposal in the features concerned.

The very small hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone assemblage has only extremely limited potential for further study of local meat diet and patterns of waste disposal, particularly with reference to carcass-part selection and age at death; disposal of the major domesticates; cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse; and preliminary preparation of sheep horn. In view of the complete absence of wild species, there is no potential for interpretation of local habitats.

The archaeological deposits and the finds and environmental material from the site have limited potential for further study on their own, however could be used in the future when investigating the use of the area around Grange Road and its inhabitants.

## **7 Significance of the data**

This site can be considered of local significance. Although heavily truncated, the archaeological deposits and cut features provide further evidence for the use of the site during the Roman period through to Post Medieval Period.

When considered with the findings from 170 – 176 Grange Road, 207 – 208 Grange Road and 161 Grange Road it can be concluded that the area was agricultural land during the Roman period, with the land being divided by boundary and drainage ditches in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, being cultivated on a wider scale in the late Roman period. Collectively these sites are significant in increasing our understanding of the development of the area outside of the main Roman settlement further to the north-west (centred on Borough High Street).

The finds and environmental assemblage are also of strictly local significance but has some value for dating the site and characterising the site. The animal bone is of limited local significance only, in terms of meat diet, with respect to consumption of beef, mutton and pork; also horse carcass disposal; and preliminary preparation of sheep horn. There is no wider economic significance and no significance in terms of local habitats. The waterlogged plant remains have only minor local significance, in providing information on the natural environment and agricultural activities in the area of the site.

## **8 Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to Duncan Hawkins of CgMs for his assistance and advice throughout the project; to Linden Homes, particularly Paul Hatfield, for their assistance during the excavation; and to Leap Environmental LTD for their assistance during the test pit watching brief.

Also thanks to the MoLA staff who worked on the site.

## 9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

### OASIS ID: molas1-121154

#### Project details

Project name 177 Grange Road

#### Short description of the project

A watching brief was carried out on the site on the 18th January 2012, and a subsequent excavation between the 23rd January and the 17th February 2012. The site was heavily truncated by the demolition of 19th century houses and the construction of a factory that occupied the site from the 1950's. Some areas of the site were untruncated, and archaeological cut features and deposits survived. The site lies to the east of the main Roman Southwark settlement, concentrated on Borough High Street, and to the north of Roman Watling Street. This excavation recorded evidence for Roman agricultural activity in the form of north-south orientated linear ditches and a Roman plough soil horizon. Above this was a post medieval plough soil horizon. The site also contained remains of brick lined pits that would have been associated with the 19th century houses.

Project dates Start: 18-01-2012 End: 17-02-2012

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes GGR12 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type DITCH Roman

Monument type PIT Roman

Monument type POST HOLE Roman

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Monument type                    | PIT Post Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                | SHERD Roman  |
| Significant Finds                | SHERD Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                | SHERD Post Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                | TILE Roman   |
| Development type                 | Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)                                     |
| Prompt                           | Planning condition   |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (e.g. As a condition)                                   |
| Project location                 |  |
| Country                          | England  |
| Site location                    | GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY<br>ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK 177 Grange Road |
| Postcode                         | SE1 3AA  |
| Study area                       | 840.00 Square metres   |
| Site coordinates                 | TQ 33483 79207 51.4955246687 -0.07688845795380 51<br>29 43 N 000 04 36 W Point   |
| Height OD / Depth                | Min: 1.06m Max: 1.76m  |
| Project creators                 |  |
| Name of Organisation             | MOLA   |
| Project brief originator         | Consultant   |
| Project director/manager         | Derek Seeley   |

Project supervisor Jessica Bryan

Type of sponsor/funding body Amazon Properties

Project archives  
Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Archive ID GGR12

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Worked bone'

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive ID GGR12

Digital Media available 'Database','GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID GGR12

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Matrices','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 177 Grange Road, London, SE1. Post Excavation Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Bryan, Jessica

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher MoLA



|                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Place of issue or publication | London                             |
| Description                   | Unpublished report                 |
| Entered by                    | Jessica Bryan (jbryan@mola.org.uk) |
| Entered on                    | 16 March 2012                      |

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*Figure 1: Site location*

*Figure 2: Location of test pits and area of excavation*

*Figure 3: Archaeological features*

*Figure 4: South facing section through ditch [1]*

*Figure 5: North facing section through ditch [13] and gully [16]*

*Figure 6: West facing section of site*

*Figure 7: Ordnance Survey 1847*

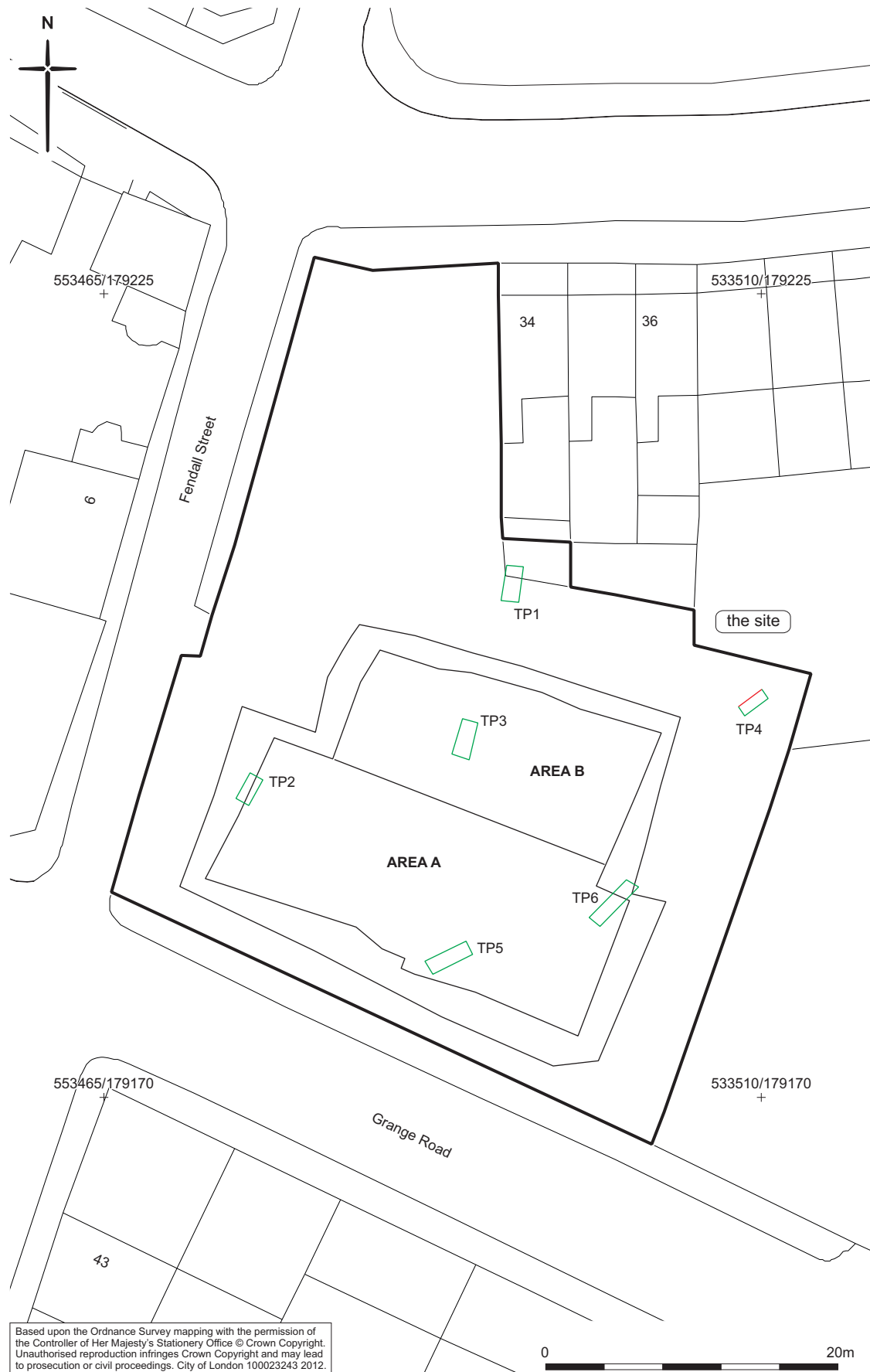
*Figure 8: Photograph of ditch [1]*

*Figure 9: Photograph of linear feature [12]*

*Figure 10: Photograph of ditch [13] and gully [16]*

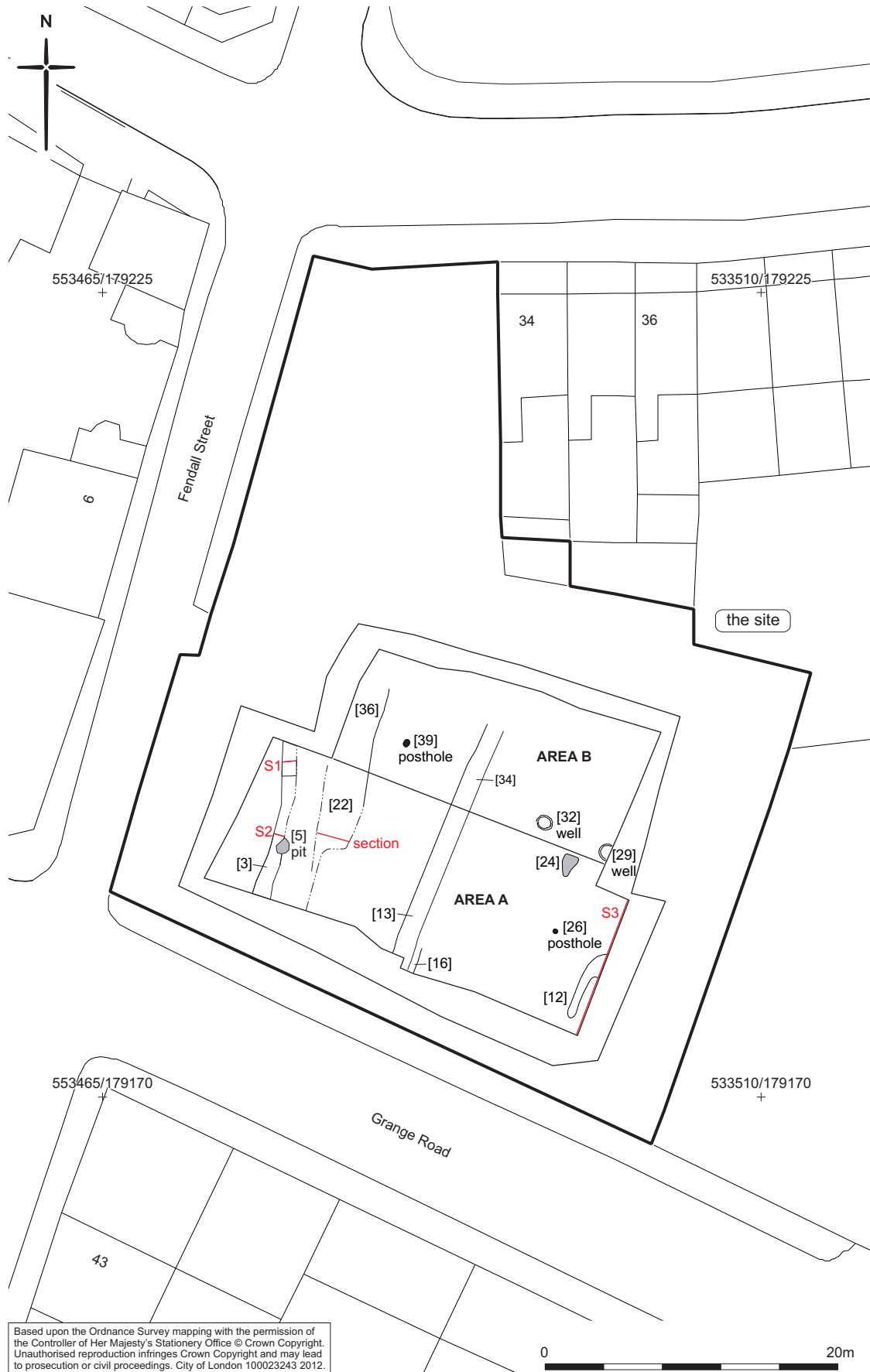


Fig 1 Site location



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Fig 2 Location of test pits and area of excavation



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0 20m

Fig 3 Archaeological features

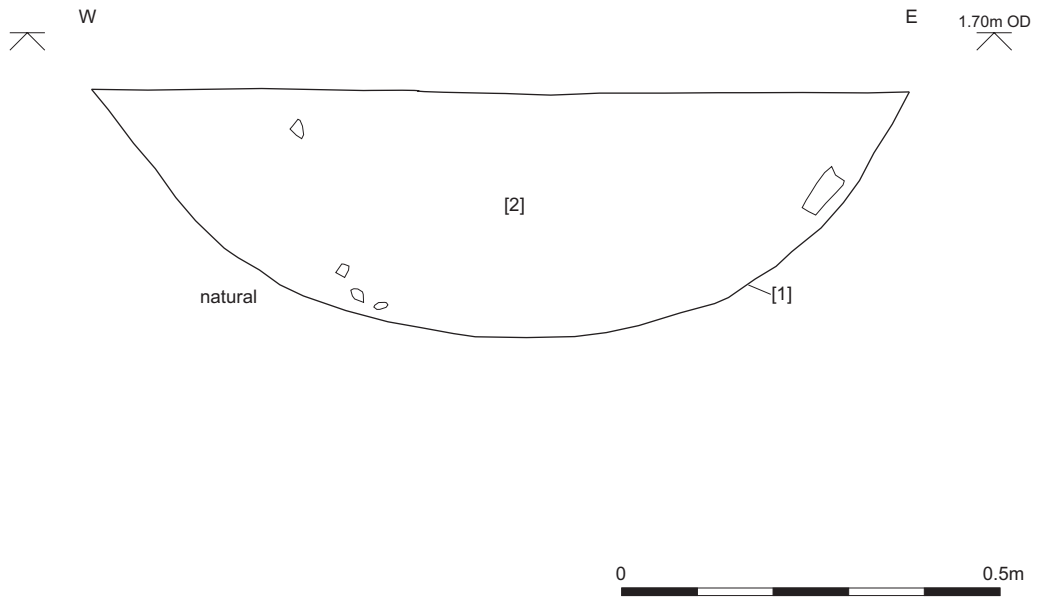


Fig 4 South facing section through ditch [1]

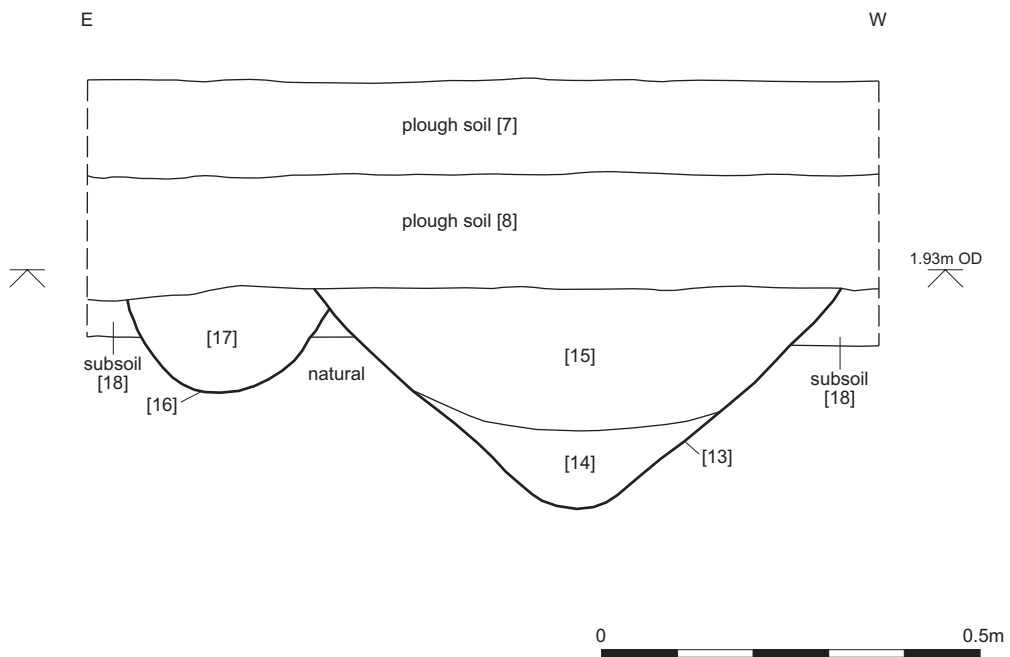


Fig 5 North facing section through ditch [13] and gully [16]



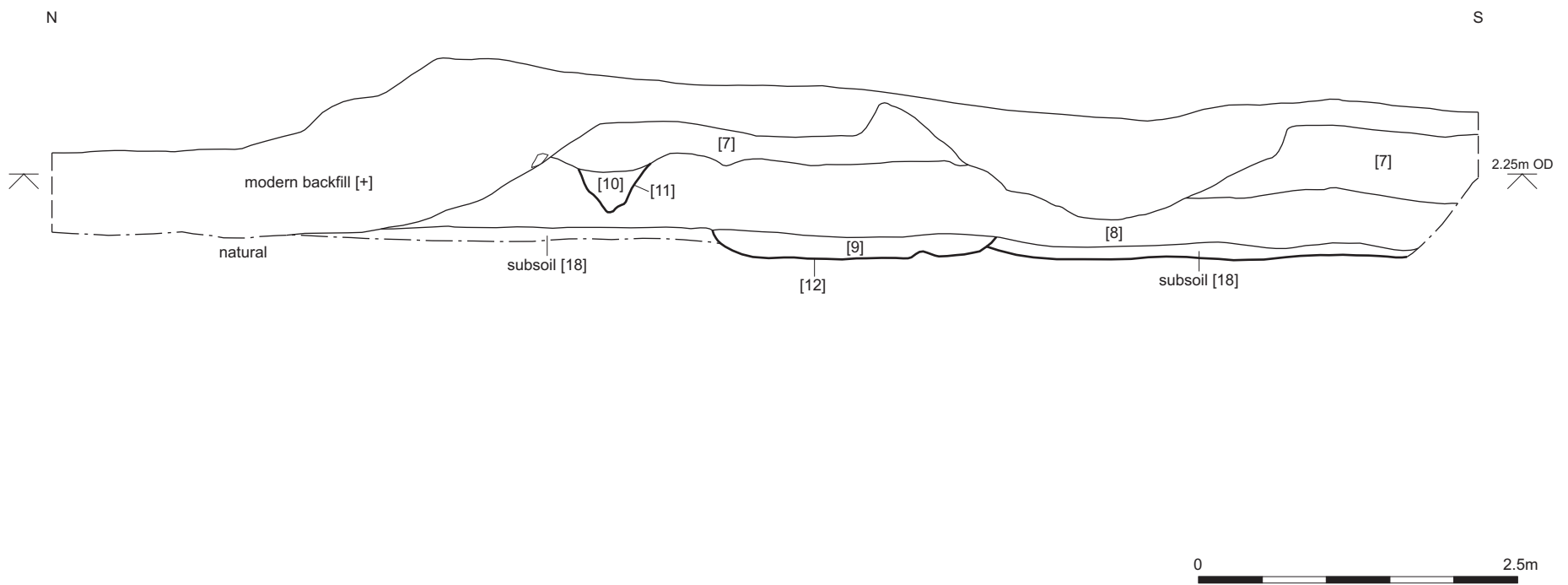


Fig 6 West facing section of site

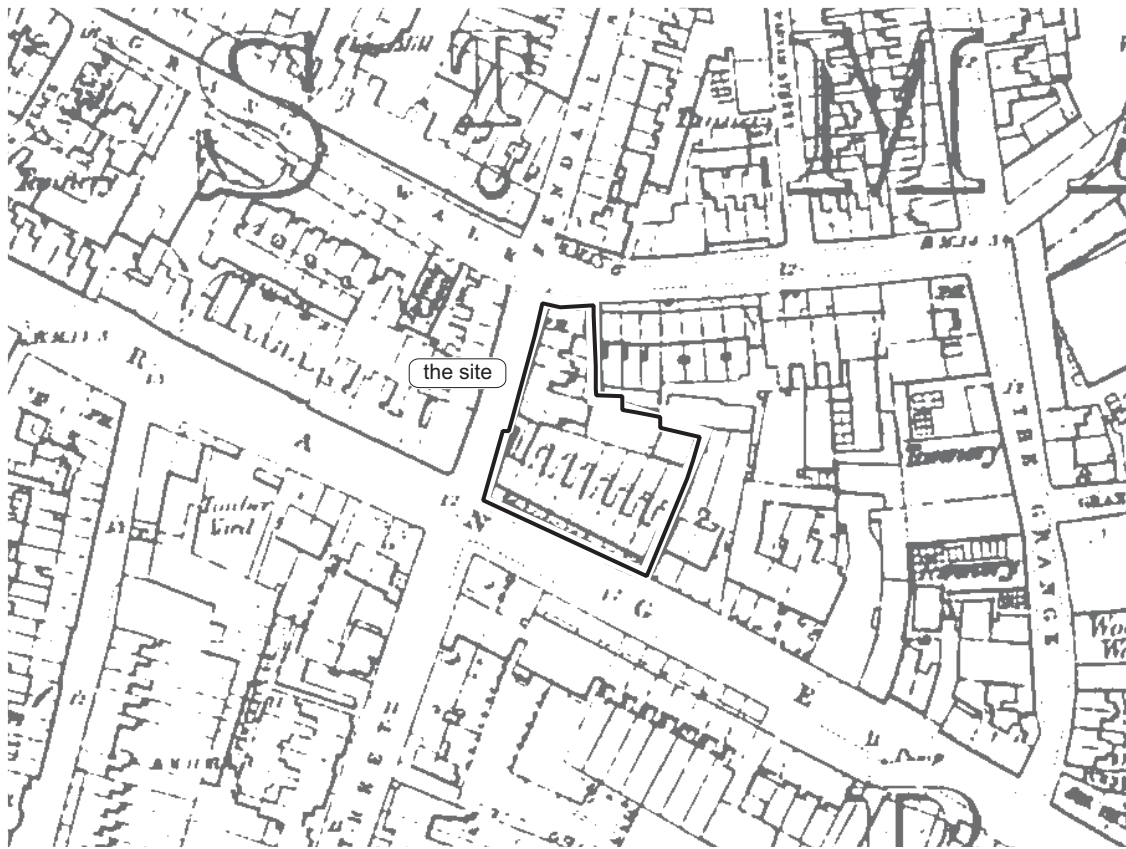


Fig 7 Ordnance Survey 1847



Fig 8 Photograph of ditch [1]



Fig 9 Photograph of linear feature [12]

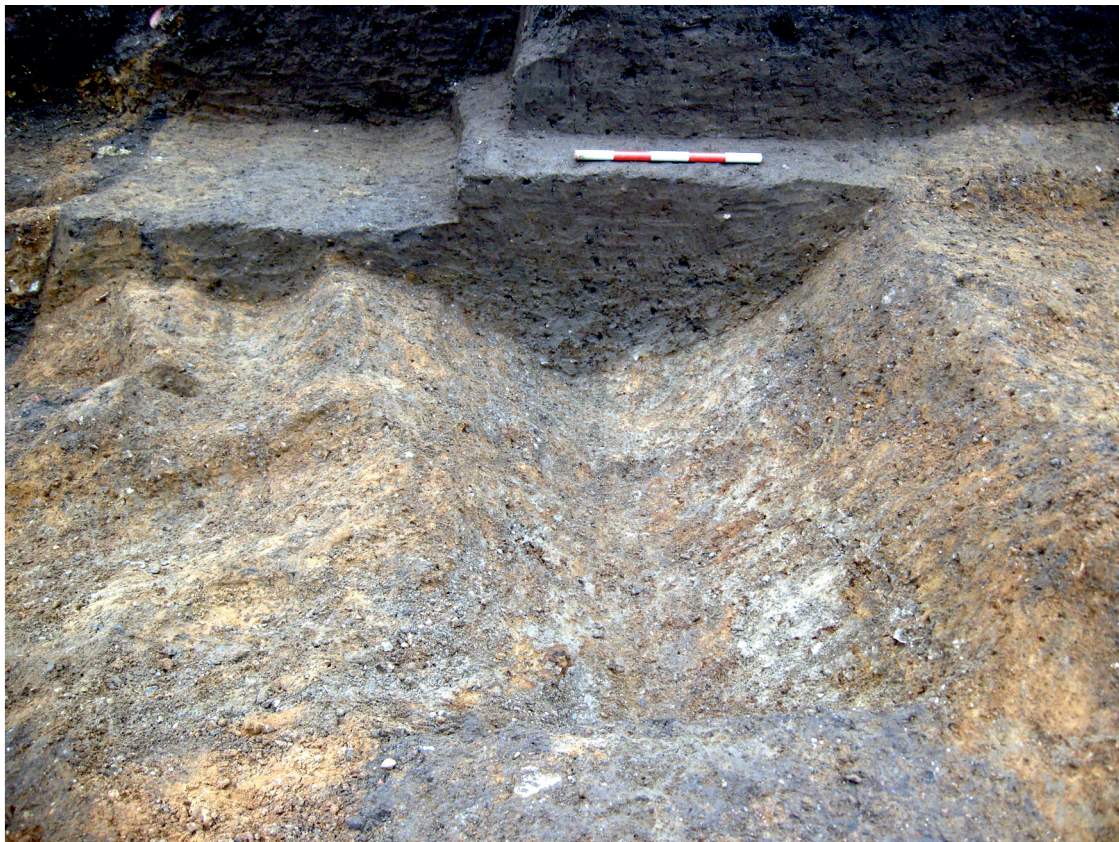


Fig 10 Photograph of ditch [13] and gully [16]