

**15–16 BARNSBURY SQUARE
17 Barnsbury Terrace
London N1**

London Borough of Islington

Post-excavation assessment

July 2013



15-16 Barnsbury Square and 17 Barnsbury Terrace London N1

Site Code BBQ13

Post-excavation Report

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Executive summary

This report is intended to inform the reader of the results of the excavation at 15-16 Barnsbury Square and 17 Barnsbury Terrace, London N1: 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 to the standards required of post-excavation analysis work as set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991).

The site was known to be the location of a medieval moated manor house that is documented from 1297 to 1388. Documentary evidence shows the moat still remained visible in 1842. Previous evaluation work on the site in 2000 (Knight, 2000) had confirmed the moat survived. Following planning permission a written scheme of investigation (Seeley, 2010) was prepared.

The current excavation exposed the north–west corner of the moat that appears to have been excavated in the 13th/14th century and was up to 7m wide. The only medieval structural remains associated with it were a chalk lined drain that leads into a chalk culvert. These were within the area enclosed by the moat and would have emptied into the moat. There was no evidence of any medieval buildings.

No fills in the moat could be dated earlier than the 19th century, suggesting it had been re-excavated or regularly cleaned out. This 19th-century backfilling supports the claim it was still visible at the time the area was being redeveloped as Barnsbury Square. To the east a 19th-century brick cellar was dug through the back filled moat. To the west the moat may only have been partially backfilled, as a 19th century ditch entered it here. In the 20th century there was dumping to the west, a substantial brick chimney base and a brick lined pit both had industrial functions.

It is proposed the results of this archaeological work will be published as an article in the journal *The London Archaeologist*.

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Front cover: 1871 OS map

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site location

The site is located in the centre of the London Borough of Islington on the western side of Barnsbury Square. Barnsbury Terrace forms the western boundary of the site and it is bounded to the north by 17 Barnsbury Square and to the south by Mica House (see Fig 1). The centre of the site lies at National Grid reference 531024 184231. The site was previously occupied by a light industrial workshop. Modern concrete slab within the site has previously been recorded at between 39.56m OD and 39.83m OD.

The site is located within an archaeological priority zone as defined by the London Borough of Islington. There are no listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments located on the site.

1.2 The scope of the project

This archaeological work covers one site that measures approximately 38m north-south and 61m east-west, and took place in early 2013.

1.3 Circumstances and dates of fieldwork

There have been two previous archaeological interventions on the site. Geotechnical pits were monitored in December 1999 (Ingram 1999) and an archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site during February 2000 (Knight 2000). Both took place under site code BBY99. These reports should be read for the results of these investigations, although they can be quickly summarised as follows:

Three evaluation trenches were excavated in which a medieval moat and medieval surfaces along with a chalk lined drain on the island were found. Pottery ranged in date from the 11th to the 15th century. No evidence of buildings was found but frequent tile fragments suggested that some form of building had been on the island during the medieval period. Other evidence of occupation included ox bones with butchery marks and a quantity of charcoal spread across the metalled surfaces. Two fragments of Roman ceramic building material were found associated with a large number of fragments of medieval roofing tile in the subsoil.

The moat appeared to have cleaned out regularly during the medieval period but had begun to silt up by the 16th or 17th centuries. The moat was still visible during the 19th century but was backfilled at the beginning of the 20th century.

Planning Consent was given to the proposed redevelopment (planning ref P061428) on appeal. The appeal decision is dated 17th January 2008 and the following condition (condition 26) relating to archaeology was attached to the consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Full excavation of the moat was considered to be a non-productive exercise. There is, however, a need to record at least a full profile of the moat across both the western and northern ditches. The northern arm of the moat lies partly beyond the site boundary whereas the western arm can be traced as being present to its full width within the redevelopment area.

A written scheme of investigation was issued (Seeley 2010), and the excavation took place between 21st January and 28th February 2013 under site code BBQ13 (see Fig 2). Following the removal of the modern concrete slab with the use of a tracked machine, further deposits were removed down to the top of archaeological deposits. Because of space constraints it was necessary for this work to take place in phases around the site.

A number of machine dug sections were recorded across the course of the moat. The area enclosed by the moat was exposed and any remains found were fully recorded and excavated.

A temporary bench mark (TBM) was established on site using an OS benchmark of 36.02m OD located on the junction of Barnsbury Terrace and Lofting Road.

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).

The first part of this report (Sections 1–4) deals with the site assessment. This includes a summary of the historical and archaeological background in Section 2. The original research aims, which were first set out in the Method Statement (Seeley 2010, section 2.2) and which the excavation was intended to address are restated in Section 3. An interim statement of the archaeological fieldwork is given in Section 4 and specialist assessment reports included in Section 5. Section 5 also quantifies the archive – stratigraphic and finds. Sections 6 and 7 draw upon sections 4–5 to provide a summary of the potential of the site (Section 6) and the significance of the remains that were recorded (Section 7). Revised research aims and an outline publication synopsis are set out in Section 8. Sections 9, and 10 set out the methodology by which the publication of the results of the excavation is to be achieved and the resources required to complete the publication

2 Historical and archaeological background

2.1 Topography

The site stands on the high ridge of Islington Hill. The solid geology of the area is characterised by a series of deposits topped by London Clay. The overlying drift geology for this area is Boyne Hill gravels. BGS

2.2 Prehistoric

Little evidence from the prehistoric period has been recovered from Islington, however 12 Palaeolithic hand axes have been recovered from the Pentonville area. William Stukeley drew a circular ditched enclosure containing round barrows at Highbury in the 18th century. Highbury was known as Newington Barrow by the early 19th century. Also during the 18th century a cremation urn containing bone was dug up by a workman in Barnsbury Square. The location within the Square is unknown as is the exact date of the urn but it could well be Bronze Age in date.

2.3 Roman (AD 43 – 410)

The site lies some to the north of the Roman city of Londinium. It has been suggested that Liverpool Road and/or Upper Street are Roman in origin. It was customary for Roman cemeteries to be constructed next to roads leading into the city. Three fragments from Roman grave stones have been recovered from the area, including two with inscriptions.

An iron urn containing coins of Constantine was found at a site to the south near Battle Bridge. It is documented that when the foundations for Mountford House were excavated that sherds of Roman pottery and coins were found. As the whereabouts of these pottery fragments is not known, their provenance is uncertain and therefore it is possible that are not Roman but medieval in date.

2.4 Medieval (AD410 – 1485)

The earliest references to Islington are from a late Anglo-Saxon Charter of around 1000, when it was called *Gislandune* ('Gisla's hill or down') and it supplied two men to man a ship. The Saxon settlement of Islington centred around Islington Green to the southeast. The Domesday Book refers to Islington as *Isendone* or *Iseldone* and by this time the area had been cleared of woodland and consisted of several estates or Manors, including Highbury, Barnsbury and Canonbury. Saxon finds from the Barnsbury area are rare, however, a Saxon bronze key has been recovered from the area.

Barnsbury manor house was first mentioned in 1297 and was ruinous in 1388. (Baker 1985, 51-52). This was probably located on land that later became the west side of Barnsbury Square.

The moat belonged to the moated grange of Barnsbury, or as it was known during the medieval period Bernersbury, which was part of the manor of Yseldon. Barnsbury's land extended from below Highgate almost to the Angel. It was held by the canons of St. Paul's in the late 13th century by Ralph de Berners whose descendants held the manor until 1532.

2.5 Post-medieval (AD 1485 – present)

The land then passed through a succession of local families including Fowler, Fisher and Halton until it was finally left by Sir William Halton to his godson William Tufnell Joliffe in 1754. In 1822 the trustees of Joliffe's descendant, William Tufnell secured an Act enfranchising the land which was then disposed of by lease.

Barnsbury Square was built 1834–36 on land known as Reed Moat field and was an unusual mix of detached villas, semi-detached houses and terraced houses. Mountfort House was completed in 1836, but was actually two houses.

It was thought by early antiquarians that the moat still visible as an earthwork was the site of a Roman camp, and is indicated as such on a plan of Islington drawn in 1805–6.

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society's Transactions Volume 1 1860 includes a letter from Mr George Mackenzie which was read at the Society's meeting on 9th February 1859:

'On the north side of London, within the distance of a mile from the Angel at Islington, is Barnsbury Square. Nearly in the line of the south side of the square, was existing within my memory the southern ditch of the camp – it is difficult to recollect dimensions – but I should say somewhere about 20 feet wide and 8 feet deep. Following the south side of the square, a small turfed enclosure at the southwest corner will be reached, and thereabouts the ditch turned to the northward. A marked depression may still be observed in the ground of the gardens behind the houses on the western side of the square; that depression shows the old ditch; thus the enclosed area of the camp included part of the houses on the western side of the square. The east and part of the north sides of the camp were obliterated before my recollections by excavations for brickmaking purposes, and a large extent of ground now filled up was nearly as low as the bottom of the fosse, and much below the enclosed area of the camp...'

Also that:

'Several gentleman made remarks upon the subject, and it was suggested by the Chairman that the site alluded to might possibly be that of a moated manor house.'

A footnote in the journal relating to Mackenzie's letter states:

'The same opinion was entertained by the topographical inquires of the last century. In a letter written in 1769, addressed by Edward Forster, Esq. to the Editor of Camden, occurs this passage: 'I have lately been at our camp near Islington. Can you find any account of any Saxon or Old English mansion on that spot? If you can, I have no doubt but what the antiquaries call the Praetorium has been the site of such a building. Part of one side of the camp is all that really remains; one angle may be traced'

In *Archaeologia*, Volume LXVIII 1917 it states:

'...until about 1834 there existed a moat a little to the westward of Barnsbury Park the remains of an encampment (known by the name of Reed Moat Field), surrounded by a moat upwards of 20ft. in width and about 12ft. deep with an

extensive embankment or breastwork thrown up on the western side. This embankment and part of the moat on the west still remained in 1842...'

All of the 18th, 19th century and early 20th-century accounts show that the moat and the 'island' it had enclosed existed up until the first half of the 19th century when all but the north-western corner had been lost under newly constructed houses. All the accounts that give dimensions say the ditch was approximately 6m wide and between 2.4m and 3.6m in depth.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1871 (see front cover) shows the north western corner of the moat in the garden of Mountfort House. By 1896 Mountfort House had become a 'home for destitute boys' and in 1914 was owned by a silk dyer and was used for industrial purposes.

The 1914 Ordnance Survey map also gives an indication that the moat was still visible at the beginning of the 20th century. In the 1930's a factory, now Mica House, was built to the south in the grounds of Mountfort House.

By the 1952 OS map (see Fig 3) the site had a building along the northern side and, apart from a small building the central area of the site, was largely open. This open area had been infilled with a large building and a detached chimney by the 1972 OS map (see Fig 4). This chimney was demolished sometime after 1976 (possibly in the early 1980's) and the layout of buildings had changed by 2005.

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 (Seeley 2010, section 2.2) 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.

- Does the untruncated surface of natural gravels and/or brickearth subsoil survive?
- To what extent does the moat make use of natural stream channels?
- Is there any further evidence of in situ or re-deposited Roman remains on the site?
- Is there any evidence of structures outside the moat? If so what is the date and function?
- Is there any evidence of structures on the island enclosed by the moat? If so what is the date and function?
- Is there any evidence for industrial activity either inside or outside the moated area?
- Is there any evidence of revetments?
- Is there any evidence of a moat crossing?
- How does this site compare with other known examples?
- How does the evidence from this site modify our understanding of these sites and their usage?
- How was the site being used during the 16th and 17th centuries?

4 Site sequence: interim statement on field work

4.1 Introduction

Seven sections across the moat were recorded; the depth meant these were usually recorded in two parts, with the lower stepped part being identified as 1a, 2a etc.

4.2 Natural and topography

The natural gravels were seen across the site, but only to the east was it untruncated with a maximum height of 39.91m OD and in the middle of site it was 39.48m OD. Clearly the gravels were sloping towards the west, though in that area of site the gravels had been truncated by later activity.

4.3 Medieval (410–1485)

(For medieval features see Fig 5)

4.3.1 The moat

The site is located on the north-west quadrant of the Barnsbury moated site; this resulted in an L-shaped plan being recorded. The northern arm was 40.0m E-W and it then turned to run SW-NE a further 20.0m. As the northern edge of the moat lay beyond the sites northern limits a full profile across the moat was not possible. However the western edge of the moat was recorded and this suggests the moat was at least 7m wide.

A series of sections were recorded through the moat fills, the maximum depth recorded was 2.50m (in Section 2/2a). Although there is strong evidence the moat was cut in the medieval period, the sections showed a variety of fills that suggested the moat was backfilled relatively recently (see section 4.4 post-medieval). None of the fills could be dated to the medieval period, suggesting the moat had been regularly cleaned out or periodically re-excavated.

There were several medieval features found, these would have been located on the 'island' that were enclosed by the moat.

Chalk lined drain [60]

This was c 3.0m long as found and was running east-west. It was 0.32m wide and 0.45m deep and was constructed of small chalk blocks, the base had a clay lining suggesting the drain once had a tiled floor.

Chalk culvert [85] (see Fig 8)

This was c 5.0m long as found and was running east-west before curving towards the north-west. It was 1.64m wide and 0.37m deep and was constructed of chalk blocks. It had a floor made up of harder chalky nodules laid on a clay bed 50mm thick. Although not proven this culvert must once have emptied into the medieval moat.

Possible robbing cut [82]

Located between the drain and the culvert was a rectangular cut feature [82] that was 3.60m long x 0.82 m wide. At either end the cut widened out suggesting

something had existed across the width of the cut, this may have been timbers to support a wooden drain. Whatever the cut had contained had been removed or robbed. The fill [81] contained several fragments of a Surrey whiteware jar or cooking pot that is dated 1270-1500.

Additional features

Two patches of silt and charcoal fragments [74] may have been occupation deposits and included a cooking pot fragment of either Saxo-Norman or early medieval date.

4.4 Post-medieval (1485–present)

(For post-medieval features see Fig 6)

4.4.1 The moat

Documentary evidence shows the moat was still visible into the 19th century, when the Barnsbury Square area was being developed for housing in the 1830's. It seems probable the moat was infilled at that time, though where undeveloped the moat remained visible and it was still indicated on the 1914 OS map.

The moat had evidence for at least two periods of backfilling and consolidation to allow buildings to be constructed. The fills in sections 1, 2, and 5 consist of alternating bands of 19th century industrial debris and orange gravelly clay (see Fig 7). In one area a brick structure [13] (see below) was built and cut through these fills. This had been partially demolished and another period of consolidation had occurred with new deposits being dumped.

The western part of the site appears to have been consolidated in the early 20th century, with up to 2m of industrial deposits including glass milk bottles being deposited. These deposits were seen in sections 3, 4, 6 and 7 and were obscuring any earlier moat cut.

4.4.2 19th-century remains

4.4.2.1 Brick structure [13]

This was a brick floored structure that was 1.50m E/W x 1.27m N/S x 1.0m deep. The brick floor means was unlikely to have been a cesspit, it may have been an area of a larger cellar used for coal storage. This was infilled at the lowest level with coal fragments, domestic pottery and glass dating to 1833-1850. The mixed nature possibly suggesting a mid-19th century clearance group such as when a nearby house was being cleared and articles disposed of. The upper fill was a clay deposit.

4.4.2.2 Brick structure [44]

A small section of a north-south brick wall was found to the west side of the site in a machine slot. It must have continued to the north and south though no return was observed because of later truncation. In section a silty fill [43] with some 19th century pottery was found to the east of the wall suggesting this was the corner of a rubbish pit.

4.4.2.3 Possible ditch [46]

An east-west running ditch [46] cut through brick structure [44] and presumably went into the moat located a little further to the east. This was traced c 4.00m and it was over 2.0m wide, the northern edge was not found in the slot examined. The backfill to this feature was of loose mortared rubble and slate fragments, and pottery dated to the 19th century. Two early 19th century illustrations¹ show the north-west corner of the moat as open suggesting a water course was entering (or exiting) the moat here.

4.4.3 20th-century remains

4.4.3.1 Brick chimney base [63]

This was circular 3.90m in diameter and was stepped with four courses of brickwork built on a concrete base with the highest being at 40.08m OD. This had been truncated as there was no evidence for a flue bringing the hot air and fumes into the chimney.

4.4.3.2 Brick feature [2]

This was a brick lined pit 1.15m N/S x 0.80m E/W and 0.50m deep, the highest survival being 40.22m OD. It was constructed of fire bricks marked 'PHORPRES LBC' showing it had an industrial function possibly related to the nearby chimney. The backfill included late 19th/early 20th century firebricks marked 'THISTLE' and 'NETTLE'. These were manufactured by John Stein in the Bonnybridge area of Scotland and neither stamp has been recorded in London before (see 5.3.1 below). These bricks show a nearby kiln or furnace had been demolished and the debris was disposed of in this pit.

Cut [62] was a square feature that contained 20th century bricks suggesting this was a recent feature whose true purpose remains unknown.

¹ 'Head-quarters of Roman camp, Reed Moat Field, Islington' Fig 7 in Nelson, J, (1811) *History of Islington* and 'Plan of earthworks in Reed Moat Field, Islington' Fig 6 in Allen, T (1827) *History of London*

5 Quantification and assessment

5.1 Post-excavation review

The following tasks have been completed in post-excavation analysis;

- site matrix checked
- subgrouping finished
- all plans digitised
- all photographs cross referenced and indexed
- all provisional ceramic dating done
- all work on finds done

The following tasks need to be done at the next step of analysis for any future publication;

- establish final group structure
- establish land use sequence and diagrams

5.1.1 The site archive and assessment: stratigraphic

Type	Description	Quantity	Notes
Contexts	Excavation	89	
Plans	'A4' 1:20	23	(no. of sheets)
Sections	'A4' 1:10	15	(no. of sheets)
Matrices		3	sheets
Photographs	digital	63	

Table 1 Stratigraphic archive

5.1.2 Site archive and assessment: finds and environmental

Building material	Total 22.14kg Five brick samples. Three bulk items retained (One mushroom crate of ceramic building material bulk discarded after assessment).
Late Saxon and medieval pottery	21 sherds. Total 0.4kg
Post-medieval pottery	133 sherds. Total 8.08kg
Bulk and accessioned glass	10 fragments including 2 accessions. Total 0.6 kg
Clay pipes	11 fragments

Table 2 Finds and environmental archive general summary

5.2 The building material

Ian M. Betts

Material	Count	Count as % of total	Weight (kg)	Weight as % of total
Medieval ceramic*	33	84.62	4.55	20.57
Post-med ceramic	6	15.38	17.59	79.43
Total	39		22.14	

* includes some types which continue into the post-medieval period

Table 3 Building material

5.2.1 Introduction/methodology

All the building material has been recorded using the standard recording forms used by the Museum of London. This has involved fabric analysis undertaken with a x10 binocular microscope. The information on the recording forms has been added to an Oracle database.

5.2.2 Roman building material

None.

5.2.3 Saxon building material

None.

5.2.4 Medieval ceramic building material

5.2.4.1 Fabrics

Medieval fabrics

2271, 2274, 2537, 2587, 2816

5.2.4.2 Forms

Peg tile

2271, 2537, 2587, 2816

The peg tiles are all of standard London type with two round nail holes near the top edge. Splash glaze, sometimes decayed, is present on the lower upper surface of many tiles. On one tile, from the backfill of a chalk culvert (context [83]), the right hand hole does not go through the whole tile. This feature has been noted on many other London peg tiles. The hole is however sufficiently deep to insert a wooden peg or iron nail though if needed. The peg tile with the incomplete hole also has a diagonal batch mark made by the tip of a finger. This is the best example of this type of mark (classified as type 4) found on a peg tile in fabric 2587.

Form?

Fabric 2274

From the backfill of a chalk drain (context [59]) is the corner of a light green glazed fragment of uncertain type. The form and function of this small piece of ceramic is uncertain, it is not even clear whether it is building material.

5.2.5 Post-medieval building material

5.2.5.1 Fabrics

3032, 3261

5.2.5.2 Forms

Brick

Fabrics 3032, 3261

Contexts	Size (mm)	Type
[1] <20>	228 x 113 x 62 to 74	Voussoir
[1] <21>	185 to 230 x 75 x 74	Curved
[1] <22>	226 x 76 x 74	Rectangular (half width)
[1] <23>	229 x 113 x 75-76	Rectangular
[1] <24>	? x 99 to 145 x 112	Arch

Table 4 Post-medieval brick details

Five firebricks were recovered from the fill of a brick structure (context [2], fabric 3261). Three are stamped THISTLE whilst the other two are lettered NETTLE. Two of the bricks are rectangular but the other three are shaped. Present is a voussoir brick, and arch brick and a curved brick.

Various letter combinations are present:

Standard rectangular firebrick:

THISTLE

Curved firebrick:

G
THISTLE

Arch firebrick:

NH834[..
THISTL(E)

The incomplete letters/numbers NH834 may be a batch mark or represent a specific type of firebrick.

Rectangular half width firebrick:

NETTLE AI
G

Both are surrounded by a shallow border. The letters AI may stand for 'alumina'.

Voussoir firebrick:

NETTLE

G

A Victorian or later London-made dark red brick (fabric 3032) was recovered from context [44].

5.2.5.3 *Assessment work outstanding*

None.

5.3 The pottery

Nigel Jeffries

Post-Roman pottery	8.4kg	154 sherds
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Table 5 Post-Roman pottery

5.3.1 Medieval pottery (c 900–1500)

5.3.1.1 Summary/Introduction

This text considers the medieval pottery retrieved in four contexts from this site. Comprising 21 sherds from up to four vessels and weighing a total of 438 grammes, this material therefore provides only a small proportion of the overall pottery assemblage from this site.

This material is therefore characterised by small-sized groups only (contexts containing between one and 29 sherds) and was found in isolation in three of the four contexts ([29], [74], [81], [83]) the pottery was retrieved in.

5.3.1.2 Methodology

The pottery was examined macroscopically, using a binocular microscope (x 20) where appropriate, and recorded on paper and computer, using standard Museum of London codes for fabrics, forms and decoration. The numerical data comprises sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight (by grammes) and was entered onto the ORACLE database.

5.3.1.3 Fabrics

The main ware types in this small assemblage are products of the Surrey whiteware industry (Pearce and Vince 1988) with little in the way of other sources of supply represented. One particular fabric, coarse border ware (CBW: dated 1270-1500), is dominant with the profile of a jar or cooking pot found smashed in fill [81] providing 17 of the 21 medieval pottery sherds found. Further products were located in [83]. The earliest medieval pottery was found in [74]; here the cooking pot fragment appears either Saxo-Norman or early medieval in date.

5.3.1.4 Discussion

The lack of medieval pottery suggest this site did not witness significant levels of medieval activity and in at least three of the four contexts is best interpreted as 'background noise' (Buteux and Jackson 2000) dated largely to the 13th-14th century. Only pit fill [81] yielded a significant quantity of medieval material. It is not clear at this stage of analysis how this material relates to the stratigraphy but the initial phasing shows that most of this assemblage is found in isolation in three of the four contexts it was found in.

5.3.2 Post-medieval (c 1500–1900)

5.3.2.1 Summary/Introduction

Comprising 133 sherds from 73 vessels and weighing a total of 8008 grammes, this text considers the post-medieval pottery retrieved in 14 contexts. It evaluates the character and the date range of the assemblage, determines the research questions this material can address while identifying areas of further work.

Whilst this material is mostly characterised by small-sized and fragmented pottery groups (13 contexts containing between one and 29 sherds, usually less than 5 sherds), an assemblage of Victorian dated pottery (93 sherds from 39 vessels) comprising some intact vessels with reconstructable profiles and large-cross joining sherds was recovered in the fill [12] of a brick-lined structure.

5.3.2.2 Methodology

The post-medieval pottery was recorded to the same standard as the medieval pottery.

5.3.2.3 Fabrics

Table 6 demonstrates that the pottery can be divided into 7 categories by broad sources of supply: Surrey-Hampshire border wares, London made 'coarse' red earthenwares, imported wares (Continental and far-eastern), industrial finewares, non-local earthenwares and British made stonewares. With much of the assemblage derived from the filling ([12]) of a brick-lined structure and 19th-century dated, the discussion below focuses on the range of fabrics and forms identified here.

Ware type	No of sherds	No of sherds as %	ENV total	ENV total as %	Weight (in grammes)	Weight (as %)
Border wares (Surrey-Hampshire)	1	0.7	1	1.3	103	1
'Coarse' red earthenwares (London)	18	13.5	14	19.1	726	18
Imported wares: Continental	1	0.7	1	1.3	2	1
Imported wares: far-eastern	1	0.7	1	1.3	37	1
Industrial finewares	101	75.9	50	68.4	5504	101
Non local earthenwares	6	4.5	1	1.3	1072	6
British made stonewares	5	3.7	5	6.8	564	5
Total	133	100%	41	100%	8008	100%

Table 6 Ware types for the post-medieval pottery

by sherd count, ENV and weight

Overall much of this material is dated to the 19th century with up to 101 of the 133 sherds dated to this period, and is found in nearly all the contexts with pottery from this site. This leaves four deposits - [27], [54], [61] and [81] - containing a few sherds of 15th-18th century dated ceramics.

British made industrial finewares therefore predominate - it is the largest group within the post-medieval assemblage (75% of sherd count) from this site - as is the case throughout the London area, and indeed the whole country by the late 18th-century. The rapid growth during this period of the Midlands industries which mass-produced durable, refined earthenwares and later the various kinds of ironstone chinas, granites and so on, as well the overwhelming success of transfer-printing as a major force in the field of decoration, all combined to transform the production, marketing and use of pottery in Britain.

Much of the pottery in [12] is comprised either refined whiteware or heavier bodied ironstone china and granite wares, either plain, or decorated with mostly blue coloured transfer-printed patterns. Bone china is also common to this fill and found with a selection of under and overglazed painted decoration or moulded detail applied. All the British made stoneware found is also located in 19th-century dated contexts.

5.3.2.4 *Forms*

In addition to a range of blue transfer-printed refined whiteware food serving vessels (soup and vegetable tureens) and a teacup and saucer both decorated with the 'Erica' print and made by Davenport, the 19th-century crockery in [12] comprises a range of bone china tea drinking and other tableware vessels simply decorated with gilded line band enamelling with two well-preserved eggcups, a few different-shaped teacups and a cream jug retrieved. Stoneware provided pottery associated with literacy/writing with two bottles used for storing inks with refined whiteware candlestick <14> and bone china snuffer/extinguisher <7> used for lighting. Supplying further insights into lives of Victorian London and the character of the occupants of this area is a selection of miniature or toy items, with two plain bone china saucers, including <15> and possibly a doll <13> - represented by a lower arm and an outstretched hand - recovered alongside two refined whiteware with green transfer-printed miniature teabowls. Hygiene and sanitary wares are represented by a plain refined whiteware toilet box lid, chamber pot and wash bowl in addition to an ointment pot for holding pills or cold creams. A grey coloured transfer-printed lid bearing the gothic lettering 'cold cream' completing this functional group.

5.4 The bulk and accessioned glass

Nigel Jeffries

5.4.1 Introduction and methodology

This report considers the post-medieval bulk glass - phials, bottles, jars and window glass - and two accessioned glass vessels from this site. Yielding 12 fragments from 10 vessels (weighing 688 grammes), the glass was recovered in contexts [12], [31] and [52] and is Victorian or later dated. The accessioned material comprised a colourless lead-glass tumbler <11> and a globular colourless glass bowl <12>, both recovered in [12].

This material is dateable and easily identifiable through the extensive typologies developed for bottles, jars and phials for the Victorian and later period (Jones and Sullivan 1989; and <http://www.sha.org/bottle/>). In addition to the paper archive, the assemblage was recorded onto the Oracle database.

5.4.2 Categories by dating and material

With no window glass found on this site, bottles, jars and phials provide the bulk glass retrieved. All this material is British made, as is normal for excavated glass assemblages from the United Kingdom, reflecting the dominance and popularity of British manufactured goods. Preservation per context is variable: whereas three complete vessels were discarded in [31], the glass in [12] is more fragmented with [52] yielding just the one green coloured glass bottle fragment.

5.4.3 Victorian and later glass

The three complete glass bottles in [31] are machine made and therefore Edwardian or later dated. They comprise a colourless glass shouldered jar for containing marmalade or pickled products, a four-sided square shaped bottle with relief moulded lettering advertising its contents as the popular Chicory cure all mixture and maker as Pattersons of Glasgow. The third object is a white or 'milk' coloured glass ointment pot; with 'OATINE' in relief moulded lettering on its base, the last vessel is of particular interest as it would have contained oatine face cream and been encased by finely moulded silver plate and lid.

Glassware in [12] appears consistent to material made during the early Victorian period and would have served a variety of different functions, for example the tumbler <11> was used for drinking spirits and so forth, and a near complete slim cylindrical colourless glass phial in [12] would have contained any of the numerous cure all's sold during the Victorian period. The colourless glass bowl <12> is likely to have served as a decorative item.

5.4.4 Provenance of objects

The composition of the glass from [12] provides some indication of where this material was gathered from the household this brick-lined feature once served: assuming the occupants had access to one, the wine bottles were likely to have been derived from a cellar, in contrast to the phials, which represent more individual and privately used objects taken from the household's apothecary stock. The glass in [31] also has an emphasis on personal hygiene and well-being.

5.5 The clay tobacco pipes

Nigel Jeffries

5.5.1 Introduction/methodology

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage from this site was recorded in accordance with current Museum of London Archaeology practice and entered onto the Oracle database. The English pipe bowls have been classified and dated according to the Chronology of London Bowl Types (Atkinson and Oswald 1969). Quantification and recording follow guidelines set out by Higgins and Davey (1994; Davey 1997).

5.5.2 Quantification

Total no. of fragments	11
No. of bowl fragments	10
No. of stem fragments	1
Accessioned pipes	9
Boxes (bulk\accessioned)	1

Table 7 Clay tobacco pipe quantification

5.5.3 Condition

Nine of the ten bowls have a reasonable length of stem still intact. Made in a good quality mould and well-trimmed whilst some are in good condition, others are little worn. No whole pipes were found. Since most pipes show evidence of having been smoked, it appears that the deposits in which they were found were not subject to any marked degree of disturbance.

5.5.4 Character and dating of the clay pipes

Table 8 presents the clay pipes recovered in three contexts, with most of the clay pipe assemblage located in just the one context ([12]). This is the latest dated from the site, dated c1820–40 by the nine pipe bowls of type AO28 found here. All of these bowls have relief moulded makers initials of FS located on the side of each heel. It is likely that these initials are related to the pipe maker Frazer Swift whom operated from Liverpool Road in Islington 1833-85.

With the AO21 bowl type in context [61] providing a late 17th-century date for this deposit, the remaining context yielded a stem and decorated heel fragment, and thus has been given the very broad date range of c1580–1910, although they probably come for the most part from pipes made during the later 17th and 18th centuries. Stem fragments are notoriously difficult to date when not associated with a bowl, although their general appearance does conform with that of common trends and forms (i.e. a tendency to narrower and sometimes longer stems over time).

Context	TPQ	TAQ	B	S	M
12	1820	1840	9		
52	1580	1910		1	
61	1680	1710	1		

Table 8 Clay tobacco pipe dates, by context (B – bowl; M – mouthpiece; S – stem)

5.5.5 Marked pipes

CONTEXT	ACC NO	FORM	ED	LD	Mark	Type	Method	Position
12	1	AO28	1820	1840	FS initials	R	M	SH
12	2	AO28	1820	1840	FS	R	M	SH
12	3	AO28	1820	1840	FS	R	M	SH
12	4	AO28	1820	1840	FS	R	M	SH
12	5	AO28	1820	1840	FS	R	M	SH
12	6	AO28	1820	1840	FS	R	M	SH
12	7	AO28	1820	1840	FS	R	M	SH
12	8	AO28	1820	1840	FS	R	M	SH
12	9	AO28	1820	1840	FS	R	M	SH
52	10	UNK	1580	1910	Rosette	R	M	SH

Table 9 Marked and decorated clay pipes

6 Potential of the data

6.1 Realisation of the original research aims

- *Does the untruncated surface of natural gravels and/or brickearth subsoil survive?*

Gravels to the east were untruncated and sloped down to the west, the maximum height was 39.91m OD. There was no surviving brickearth subsoil.

- *To what extent does the moat make use of natural stream channels?*

There was no evidence of natural stream channels.

- *Is there any further evidence of in situ or re-deposited Roman remains on the site?*

There was no evidence of *in situ* or re-deposited Roman remains.

- *Is there any evidence of structures outside the moat? If so what is the date and function?*

The only structures are a possible 19th-century pit [44] to the west and a 19th-century brick structure [13] cutting into the infilled moat. A possible ditch [46] dated to the 19th century, located to the west of the moat may be connected to the backfilling of the moat.

- *Is there any evidence of structures on the island enclosed by the moat? If so what is the date and function?*

Structures enclosed by the moat include a chalk-lined drain [60] that leads into a substantial chalk culvert [85]. Both are dated to the 13th/14th century and are contemporary with the moat. The culvert presumably emptied into the moat.

- *Is there any evidence for industrial activity either inside or outside the moated area?*

The only industrial activity on the site was 20th century in date and this was a brick chimney base [63] and a brick-lined pit [2]. The latter was backfilled with 19th-century fire bricks from a nearby disused kiln/furnace.

- *Is there any evidence of revetments?*

There is no evidence of any revetments associated with the moat.

- *Is there any evidence of a moat crossing?*

There is no evidence of a moat crossing.

- *How does this site compare with other known examples?*

Other medieval moated sites are known in the London area, the best example being Low Hall, Walthamstow (Blair, 2002). This site is similar to other moated sites that have drains located near to their moats.

- *How does the evidence from this site modify our understanding of these sites and their usage?*

The evidence from this site does not alter our understanding of moated sites and their usage. The 19th-century infilling of the ditch is a little unusual.

- *How was the site being used during the 16th and 17th centuries?*

There is no evidence of 16th or 17th-century activity on the site.

6.2 General discussion of potential

The stratigraphy and structures have potential to confirm the medieval history of the moat belonging to Barnsbury Manor, showing the moat which was dug in the 13th/14th century and also a drain and culvert located within the enclosed land. The medieval building material has limited potential to indicate the presence of buildings in the nearby vicinity. Although possibly not occupied after the 14th century the moat can be traced on Ordnance survey maps until the 19th century when it was backfilled. Subsequent building seems to have been related to industrial structures, surviving in the form of a brick floored structure [13], a wall [44] and a 20th-century large industrial chimney base [63] and brick-lined pit [2]. The presence of 19th-century firebricks are of intrinsic interest but cannot be related to any particular structures. They are clearly from some kind of furnace structure, which would also account for the black burnt deposits attached to the sides of certain examples. The arch and voussoir brick both come from some kind of arch structure, whilst the curved brick clearly originated from some sort of curved structure, such as a chimney.

The medieval pottery has little potential beyond characterising the deposits it was found in. The 19th-century group of pipes, pottery and glass in structure [13] demonstrates the best potential for further analysis and can be described through a more general and standard chronological narrative, with photographs and illustrations highlighting the more interesting or complete vessels.

7 Significance of the data

The medieval building material is of little significance; most comes from dumping or infill of the drain and culvert.

The 19th century firebricks stamped THISTLE and NETTLE are of particular importance as neither stamp has been recorded in London before. The bricks stamped THISTLE are believed to have been manufactured in Scotland by John Stein (along with firebricks stamped STEIN). He started to mine fireclay, coal and ganister from his company works at Milnquarter Farm near High Bonneybridge in autumn 1888. In the same year Stein established a works at Denny to produce building bricks. Firebricks were certainly made at Bonnybridge, in 1890 Stein was the first person in Scotland to installed a machine to make firebricks. In 1904 the company stated a new works between Castlecary and Bonneybridge.

THISTLE stamped firebricks were 38% alumina but the alumina context of the bricks stamped STEIN varied. The bricks stamped NETTLE are dense alumina firebricks used in particular in the upper walls and the arched roofs of brick-lined furnaces, which is probably how the Barnsbury Square firebricks were used.

The Barnsbury Square examples both have the letter G below the name, whilst a firebrick stamped THISTLE has what appears to be the same letter above the name. This would suggest THISTLE and NETTLE were both brand name used by John Stein.

The Victorian era crockery, glassware and tobacco pipes discarded in [13] all combine to illuminate a range of activities carried out by the occupants of a nearby property this feature once served. All the pipes in this feature derived from one local pipe-maker (Frazer Swift), suggesting the deposition event was a relatively rapid event. The value of these good, closely-dated Victorian groups is in their ability to throw light on the later history and development of the site, especially if they can be anchored to a sequence associated with a particular property, in this case nearby Mountfort House.

8 Publication project: aims and objectives

8.1 Revised research aims

In light of the recent excavation the only revised research aim is;

RRA1; Can the brick structure [13] and its finds assemblage be related to a local building?

8.2 Preliminary publication synopsis

As the site has been significant in locating the moat associated with Barnsbury manor It is proposed to publish the results of this archaeological work in a suitable journal such as *the London Archaeologist*. The archaeological sequence will also discuss the 19th-century finds of pottery, clay tobacco pipe and glass which provide dating evidence for the backfilling of the ditch and may relate to Mountfort House in the nearby vicinity

Provisional Title : ‘A moated site in Barnsbury, Islington’

Principle authors: Tony Mackinder with Nigel Jeffries

Format: article in the London Archaeologist

Total word count: 2,500-3,000

Total figure count: 6-8

Total table count: 1

Text will include

- The historic background to the site
- The archaeological evidence from the medieval moat, drain and culvert later features
- Evidence for the 19th-century backfilling of the moat and later 20th-century use of the site

Illustrations

- The article will be illustrated with site location plan, historic maps
- Photographs of 19th-century finds

9 Publication project: task sequence

All work carried out on this project is subject to the health and safety policy statement of MOLA as defined in *Health And Safety Policy*, MOLA 2009. This document is available on request. *It is MOLA policy to comply with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 and all Regulations and Codes of Practice made under the Act which affect MOLA operations.*

9.1 Stratigraphic method statement

1. Check that all assessment data, including final dating evidence, is present on relevant databases and up to date
2. Define group, land-use and Period sequence and map to Oracle database with descriptive text
3. Prepare brief publication synopsis and a word count for specialist contributors
4. Liaise with project team and Drawing Office
5. Compile final publication text

9.2 Documentary Research

6. Further investigation of documentary archives relating to Barnsbury Manor and compilation of report

9.3 Building material method statement

7. The building material assemblage should be compared with the stratigraphic sequence and all available dating evidence and a note written on the medieval building material relating to the moat and drain fills.

9.4 Pottery method statement

8. Integrate spot-date information with the stratigraphic sequence on the ORACLE database and check any discrepancies in final phasing to agree the chronological dividing lines of the periods with the stratigraphic author:
9. Write general descriptive narrative for the pots, glass and pipes in [12]:
10. Selection, preparation and packaging of illustrative materials, providing list and attending finds review:
11. Specialist edit including checking photography/illustrations and caption writing:

9.5 Graphics method statement

12. Geomatics to prep plans
13. DO to prepare final figs for publication
14. Work required for illustration/photography
Up to 10 ceramic, pipes and glass vessels require illustration or photographic work.

9.6 Project management method statement

- 15. Project management
- 16. Production costs

10 Publication project: resources and programme

Task No.	Done by	Task Description	Time required (person days)
1	TM	Check all assessment data	0.25
2	TM	Define Gp, LU and Periods, map to Oracle	0.5
3	TM	Write pub synopsis	0.25
4	TM	Liaise with project team and DO	0.5
5	TM	Write final publication text and integrate finds reports	2.5
6	TBC	Documentary research and report	3
7	IB	Write text on the building material	1
8	NJ	Integrate pottery spotdating with stratigraphy	0.25
9	NJ	Compile narrative text on pottery pipes and glass	2.25
10	NJ	Select finds for ill, attend finds review	0.5
11	NJ	Edit	0.25
12	GEO	Prep of phase plans	2
13	DO	Final artwork	1
14	PHOTO	Studio photography of finds	1
15	LW	Project management	2
16		Production costs	TBC

TM- Tony Mackinder
 IB- Ian Betts
 NJ- Nigel Jeffries
 GEO – Geomatics
 DO – Drawing Office
 PHOTO – Andy Chopping/Maggie Cox
 LW- Lucy Whittingham

The above named staff have been identified as key team members from previous contributions to the project; actual staffing will be dependent on current work programmes and may differ from the above list.

Financial resources sufficient to cover the work proposed in this document have been sought via a separate document.

11 Acknowledgements

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12 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-148523

Project details

Project name	15-16 Barnsbury Square, 17 Barnsbury Terrace, London N1
Short description of the project	The site was known to be the location of a medieval moated manor house that is documented from 1297 to 1388. Documentary evidence shows the moat remained open into the early 19th century. The excavation exposed the north-west corner of the moat that appears to have been dug in the 13th/14th century and was up to 7m wide. The only medieval structural remains associated with it were a chalk lined drain that lead into a chalk culvert. These were within the area enclosed by the moat and would have emptied into the moat. There was no evidence of any medieval buildings. No fills in the moat could be dated earlier than the 19th century, suggesting it had been redug or regularly cleaned out. This 19th century backfilling supports the claim it was still visible at the time the area was being redeveloped as Barnsbury Square. To the east a 19th century brick cellar was dug through the back filled moat. To the west the moat may only have been partially backfilled, as a 19th century ditch entered it here. There was 20th century dumping to the west, a substantial brick chimney base and a brick lined pit both had industrial functions.
Project dates	Start: 21-01-2013 End: 01-03-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	BBQ13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	BBY99 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	MOAT Medieval
Monument type	DRAIN Medieval
Monument type	CHIMNEY Modern
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ISLINGTON ISLINGTON 15-16 Barnsbury Square, 17 Barnsbury Terrace
Postcode	N1
Study area	2238.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 31024 84231 51 0 51 32 28 N 000 06 37 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38.00m Max: 39.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Islington Borough Council
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Derek Seeley
Project supervisor	Tony Mackinder
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Securivin Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	"Database"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Matrices","Plan","Report","Section"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 15-16 Barnsbury Square, 17 Barnsbury Terrace, London N1
Post-excavation assessment

Author(s)/Editor(s) Mackinder,T

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher MOLA

Place of issue or
publication London

Description A4 client report with figures

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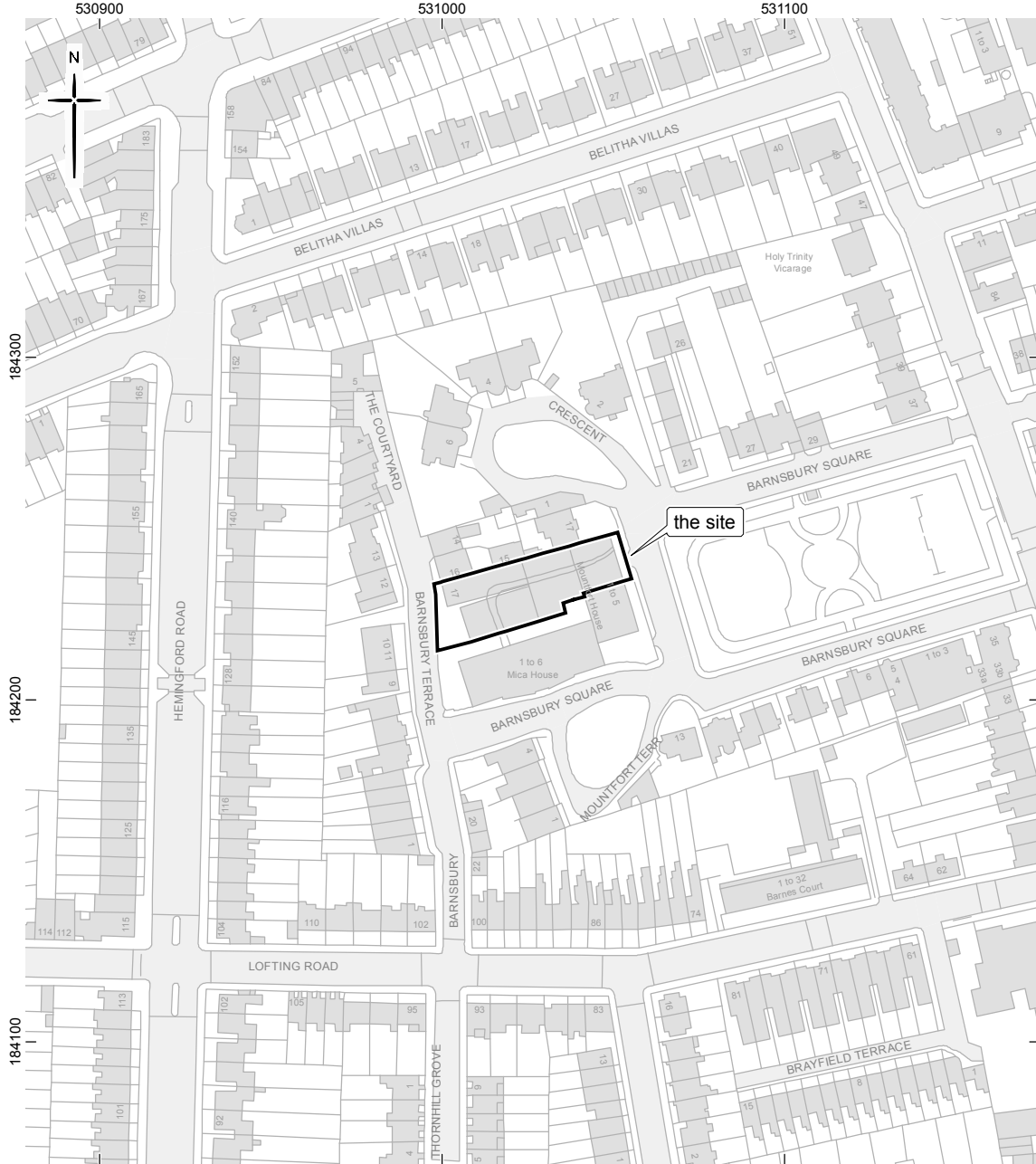
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Scale 1:2,000 @ A4

0 100m

Fig 1 Site location



Fig 2 Areas of investigation

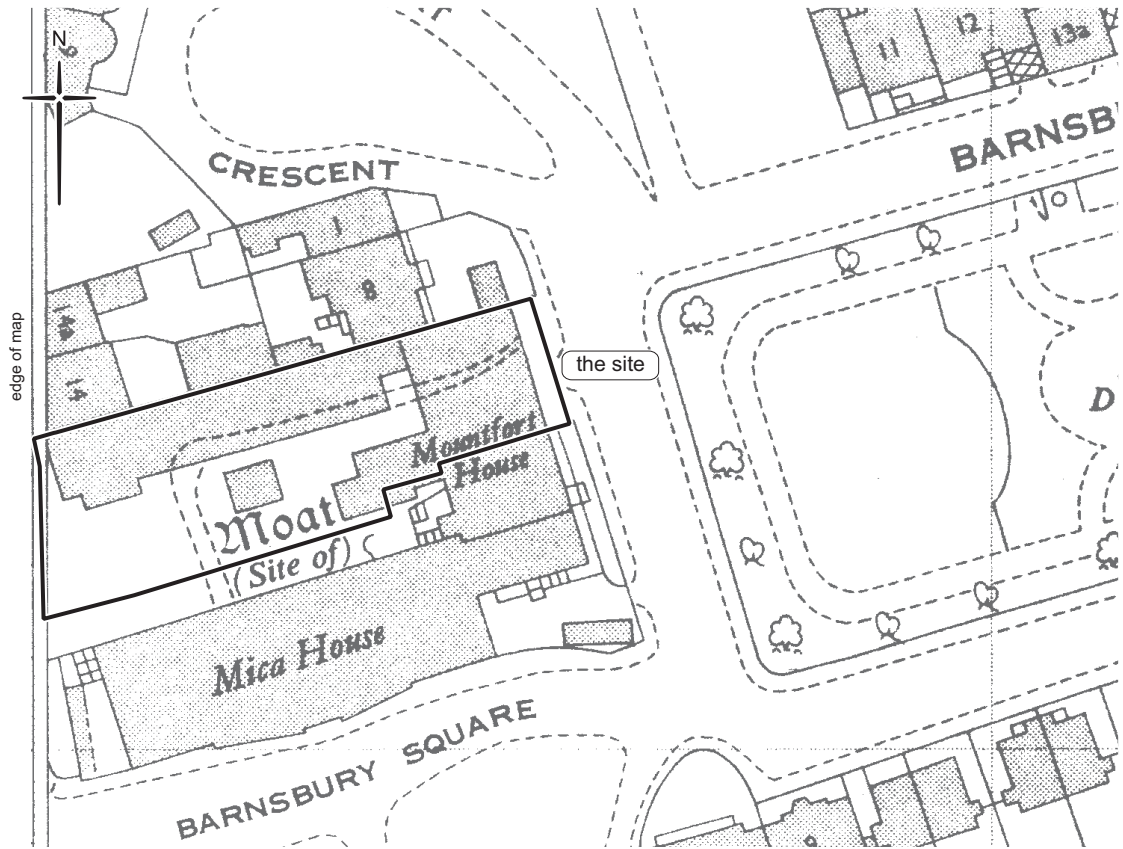


Fig 3 OS map 1952

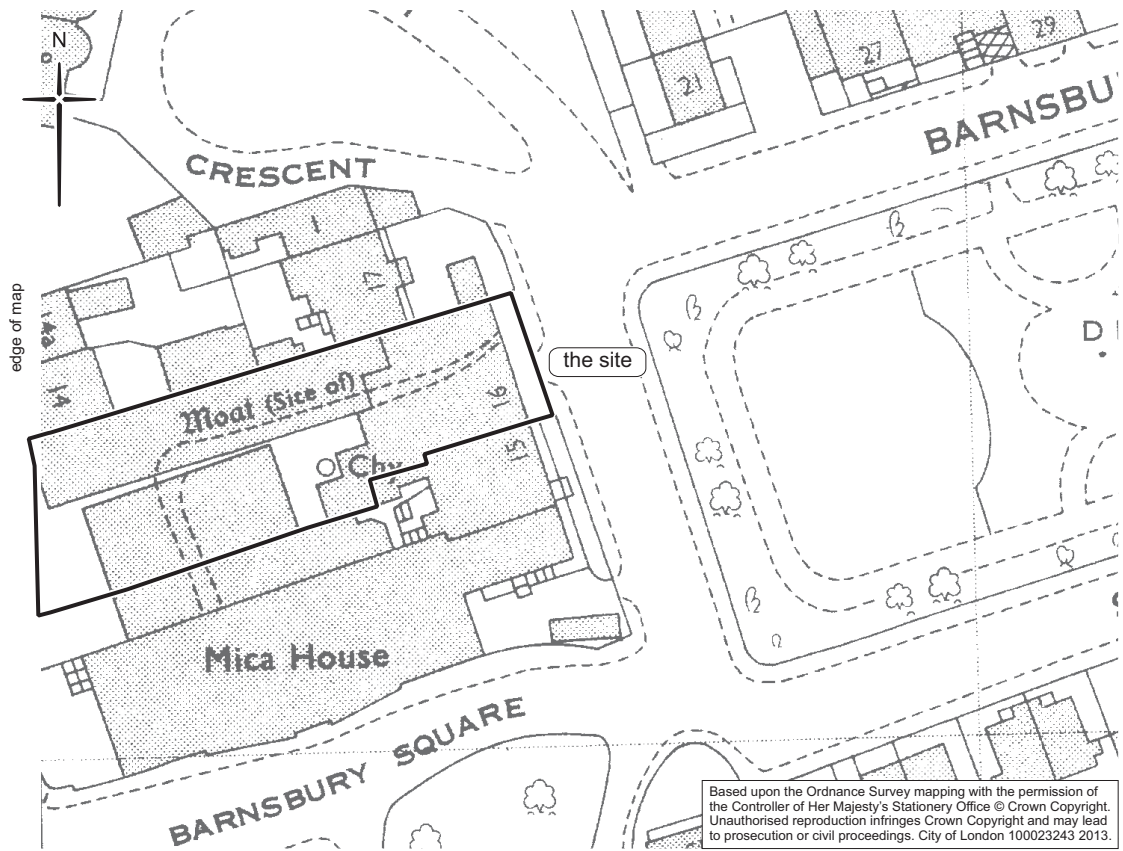
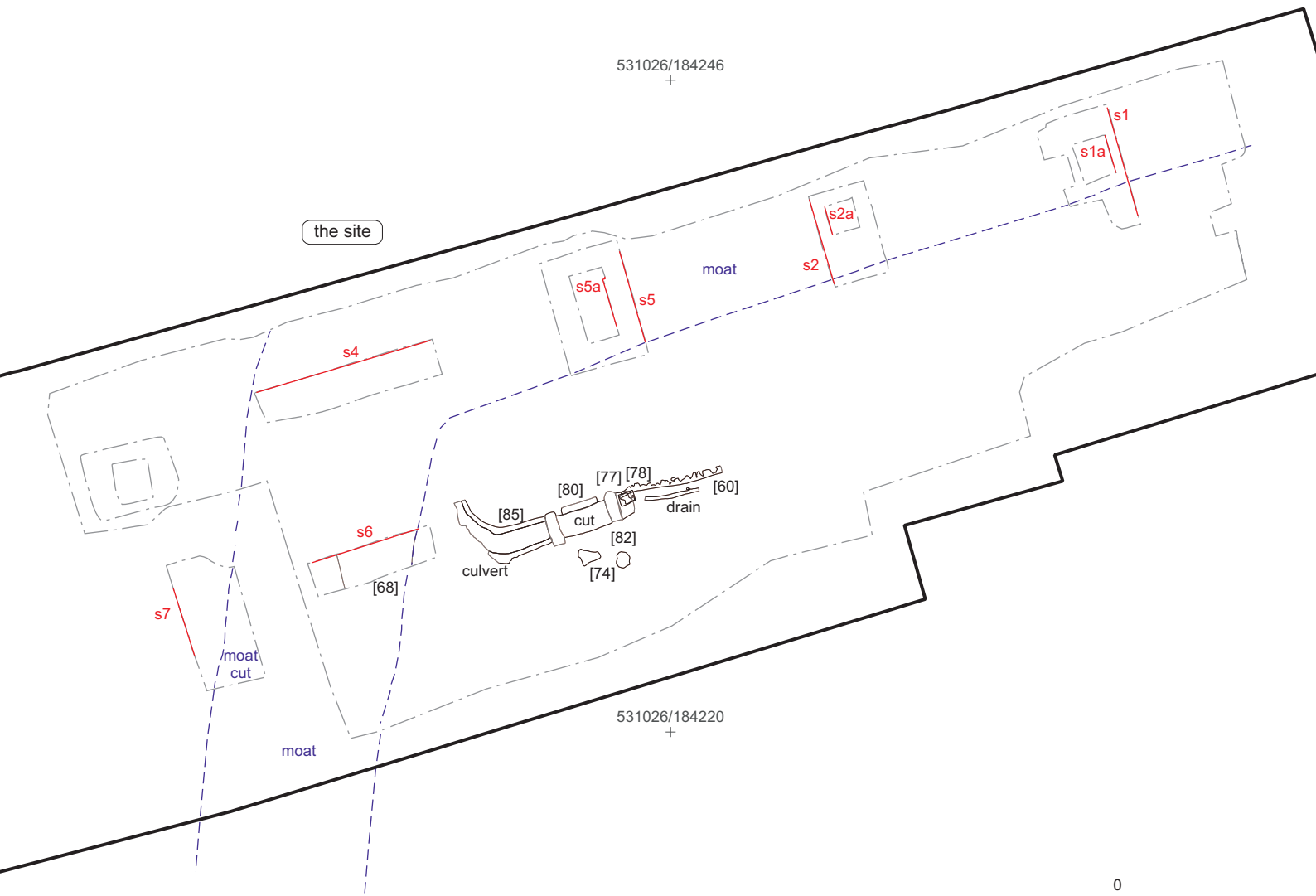
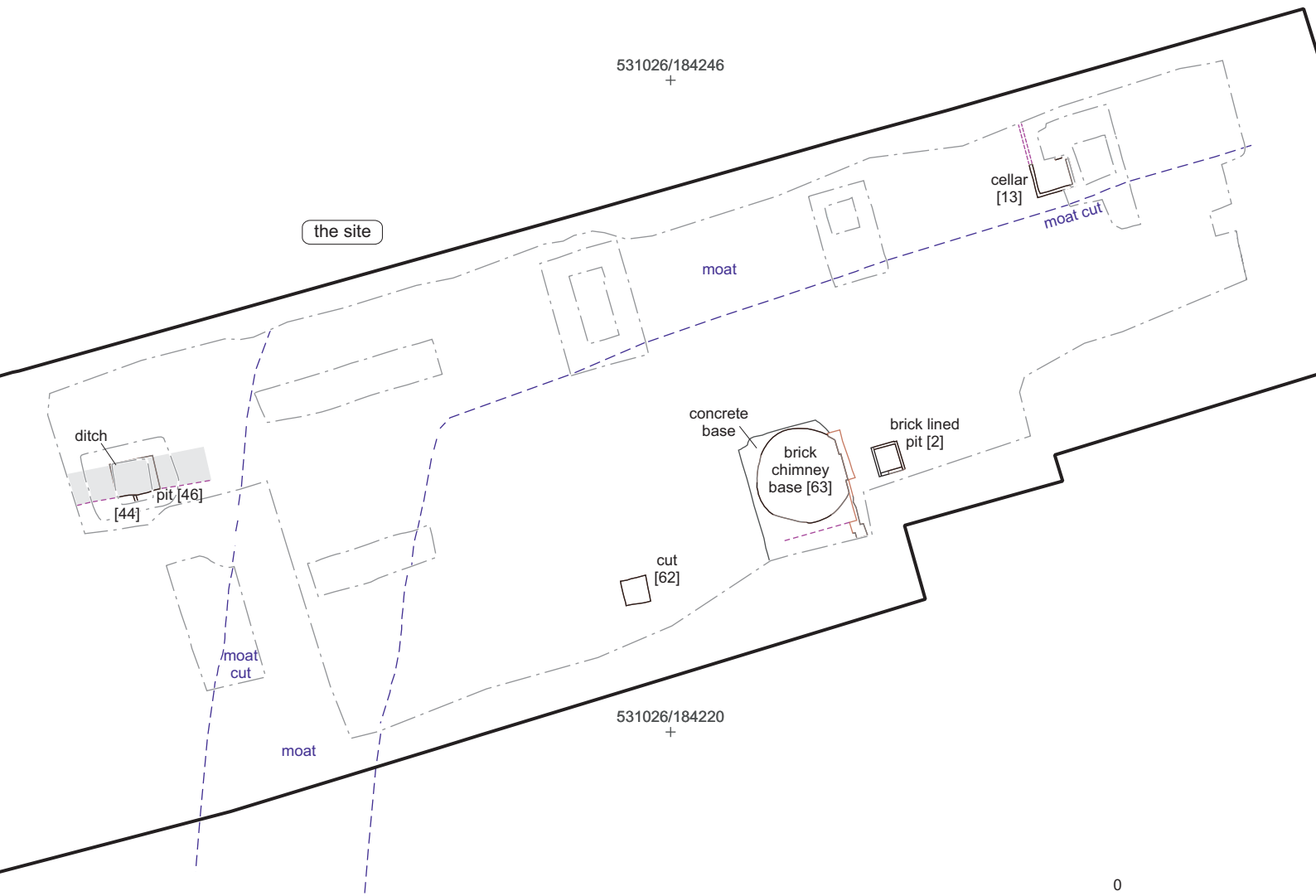


Fig 4 OS map 1972

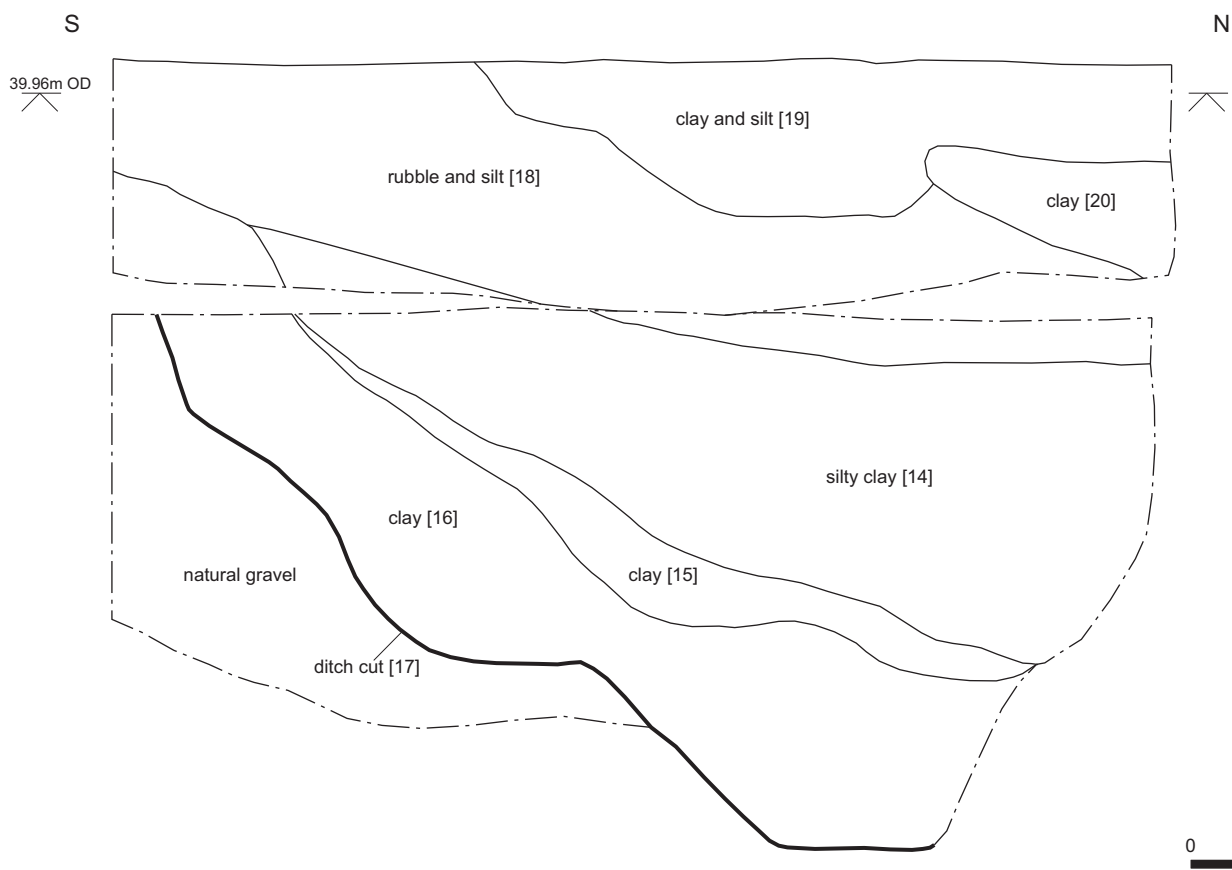
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Medieval features



post-medieval features



at fills in section 2



Fig 8 Medieval chalk culvert [85] looking west