



UKPN SHOOTERS HILL HV CABLE London

London Borough of Greenwich

Watching brief report

August 2013



UKPN Shooters Hill HV Cable Replacement London SE3 7HS

RLL13

A report on the archaeological watching brief

Sign-off History:

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by UK Power Network in order to present the results of a watching brief carried out at Shooters Hill from Donaldson Road to Red Lion Lane.

Work was monitored between 22nd February and 15th March 2013 during the excavation of a trench for a HV Cable Replacement.

No archaeological deposits were encountered in any of the areas monitored during the Watching Brief. Natural ground was observed at between 112.2m OD (east end of trench), 95.6m OD (middle of the trench) and 87.7m OD (west end of trench).

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at Shooters Hill Road, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is bounded by Eltham Common, Christ Church and Memorial Hospital to the south and private terrace houses between Donaldson Road and Red Lion Lane to the north (see Fig 1). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 543199 176605. Modern ground level on the road varied between 112.7m OD and 88.5m OD. The site code is RLL13.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement* which formed the project design for the watching brief (see Section 1.2, MOLA, 2010).

1.3 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by UK Power Network and produced by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. Further research aims and objectives are detailed in the following section (1.5).

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the watching brief against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work should now take place.

1.4 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established for the watching brief:

- What is the level of truncation caused by earlier works in this area?
- What is the nature and significance of the surviving archaeological remains?
- What are the levels of natural deposits and how do these compare to adjacent sites?

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

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

The site is located on the west facing slope of Shooters Hill. At the east end of the site, towards the top of Shooters Hill, the natural geology comprises Stanmore Gravel overlying the Claygate Beds; the underlying natural deposit in the rest of the site is Tertiary London Clay.

2.2 Prehistoric

Limited Palaeolithic remains including tree throws with burnt flint and a palaeo-channel were recorded at the Woolwich War Memorial Hospital (LAARC online catalogue, site record MH105).

2.3 Roman

The modern Shooters Hill Road reflects the alignment of the Roman road from London to Dover. Remains of a Roman road were recorded during a Watching Brief at the Aerial Sites Radio site in 1995. Also a coin (PastScape Monument n.:407974) and a fragment of mortarium (Wessex Archaeology 2008) are recorded from sites in the vicinity of Shooters Hill.

2.4 Saxon

A Jew's harp, dated as Saxon, was found at the site of the Woolwich War Memorial Hospital (CgMs, 2006, 8)

2.5 Medieval

The GLMSR records the presence of a 15th century potsherd from the area.

2.6 Post-medieval

A 16th-17th century pit was found during an archaeological evaluation only few meters from the west end of the site. Also some 18th and 19th century deposits were encountered during an evaluation at the War Memorial Hospital (Wessex Archaeology 2008).

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

The road surface was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.

The locations of the excavated trench was recorded by a member of staff from MOLA and plotted onto the OS grid.

The heights of observations were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum.

Where relevant, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan; no context records; 3 1:20 section drawings; 22 digital photographs.

The site records can be found under the site code RLL13 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

In total, one trench was excavated for the purpose of replacing the HV Cable. The trench was 300m long, 0.5m wide and between 1.1m and 1.4m deep and was monitored in several areas along its length as shown in Fig 2. No archaeological remains were found during the watching brief. The Claygate Beds sand was encountered at the east end of the site at 112.2m OD. Further to the west London Clay was encountered at 0.8 to 1m below ground level. The natural deposits were overlain by a 0.4m thick layer of dark red sandy gravel which was in turn overlaid by a 0.3m thick dark grey hardcore deposit. The trench was sealed by road tarmac. Except for the changes in the natural deposits this sequence remained the same along the whole length of the trench. There follows a brief description of the deposits as encountered and recorded in the monitored slots.

For the location of the various slots see Fig. 2

<i>Watching Brief Slot 1</i>	
Location	Along Shooters Hill
Dimensions	3m long by 0.5m wide by 1.2m deep
Top of tarmac level.	112.7m OD
Base of modern fill	112.2m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	NA
Level of base of deposits observed	NA
Natural observed	112.2m OD

Slot 1 was located at the east end of the trench. The natural deposit in this slot comprised Claygate Beds orangey yellow sand and was encountered at 112.2m OD. The sand was overlain by a 0.4 m thick deposit of dark grey hardcore which was sealed by the road tarmac.

<i>Watching Brief Slot 2</i>	
Location	Along Shooters Hill
Dimensions	3m long by 0.5m wide by 1.1m deep
Top of tarmac level.	108.5m OD
Base of modern fill	107.85m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	NA
Level of base of deposits observed	NA
Natural observed	107.85m OD

Slot 2 was located 20 m west of Slot 1. The maximum depth in this slot was 1.1m; the natural sand was encountered at 107.85m OD and was overlaid by 0.3m thick dark red hardcore and 0.3m thick dark grey hardcore underlying the tarmac.

<i>Watching Brief Slot 3</i>	
Location	Along Shooters Hill
Dimensions	55m long by 0.5m wide by 1.1m deep
Top of tarmac level.	104.6m OD
Base of modern fill	103.8m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	NA
Level of base of deposits observed	NA
Natural observed	103.8m OD

Slot 3 was located 12 m west of Slot 2 and was 55 m long. Natural deposit of orangey grey London Clay was encountered at the bottom of the trench. The clay was overlaid by hardcore deposits and tarmac as described above. No evidence of archaeological remains was found.

<i>Watching Brief Slot 4</i>	
Location	Along Shooters Hill
Dimensions	64m long by 0.5m wide by 1.1m deep
Top of tarmac level.	96.4m OD
Base of modern fill	85.6m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	NA
Level of base of deposits observed	NA
Natural observed	85.6m OD

Slot 4 was located 15m to the west of Slot 3 and was 60m long. In the middle of this slot a 2.1m stretch of the trench was widened up to 1.1m in width for the location of a Straight Joint (Fig. 4 and 5). The sequence recorded in this slot is mostly identical to the one described for Slot 3, but in the westernmost stretch of the trench (last 15m) the natural clay was not encountered suggesting either that the original slope of the hill was steeper than the road or that it suffered deeper truncation during the construction of the road itself.

<i>Watching Brief Slot 5</i>	
Location	Along Shooters Hill
Dimensions	40m long by 0.5m wide by 1.1m deep
Top of tarmac level.	88.5m OD
Base of modern fill	87.7m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	NA
Level of base of deposits observed	NA
Natural observed	87.7m OD

Slot 5 was located at about 30 m west from the end of Slot 4 and was 40 m long. The stratigraphy in this slot was very similar to the other slots. The natural deposit was overlaid by hardcore and tarmac. No evidence of archaeological remains was found.

<i>Watching Brief Slot 6</i>	
Location	By 124 Red Lion Lane
Dimensions	2m long by 1m wide by 0.5m
Top of tarmac level.	110m OD
Base of modern fill	NA
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	NA
Level of base of deposits observed	NA
Natural observed	NA

Slot 6 was located on top of the hill on Red Lion Lane which runs northwards from Shooters Hill. In this slot, below the pavement surface, there were several services. The maximum depth of the slot was about 0.5m. The only visible deposit was dark sandy silt, modern made-ground used to backfill the hole once the services were installed.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

- What is the level of truncation caused by earlier works in this area?

Natural deposits were identified along most of the trench and although it was probably truncated by the construction of the existing road the interventions were too small to confirm this hypothesis.

- What is the nature and significance of the surviving archaeological remains?

No archaeological remains were encountered in any of the slots monitored.

- What are the levels of natural deposits and how do these compare to adjacent sites?

The levels of natural deposit vary from 107.85m OD to 87.7m OD following the slope of the hill.

4.2 New research aims

No new research aims were raised by the results of the watching brief.

4.3 Significance of the data

On the basis of the results of the Watching Brief the data has no significance.

5 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

The site archive containing original records will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2010) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.

In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 4) and the limited significance of the data (Section 4.3) it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*

6 Acknowledgements

MOLA would like to thank UK Power Network for commissioning this report.

7 Bibliography

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-153004

Project details

Project name	Shooters Hill, Red Lion Lane, Donaldson Road, Woolwich, SE18
Short description of the project	The excavation of a 300m long cable trench was monitored. Natural sand was overlain by sandy gravels, modern hardcore and tarmac. No archaeological remains were observed.
Project dates	Start: 22-02-2013 End: 15-03-2013
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	RLL13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON GREENWICH GREENWICH Shooters Hill, Red Lion Lane, Donaldson Road, Woolwich
Postcode	SE18
Study area	300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 43199 76605 51.469758155 0.0619421567984 51 28 11 N 000 03 42 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 85.60m Max: 112.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service
Project design originator	MOLA

Project director/manager	Craig Halsey
Project supervisor	Paolo Guarino
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	UK Power Network

Project archives

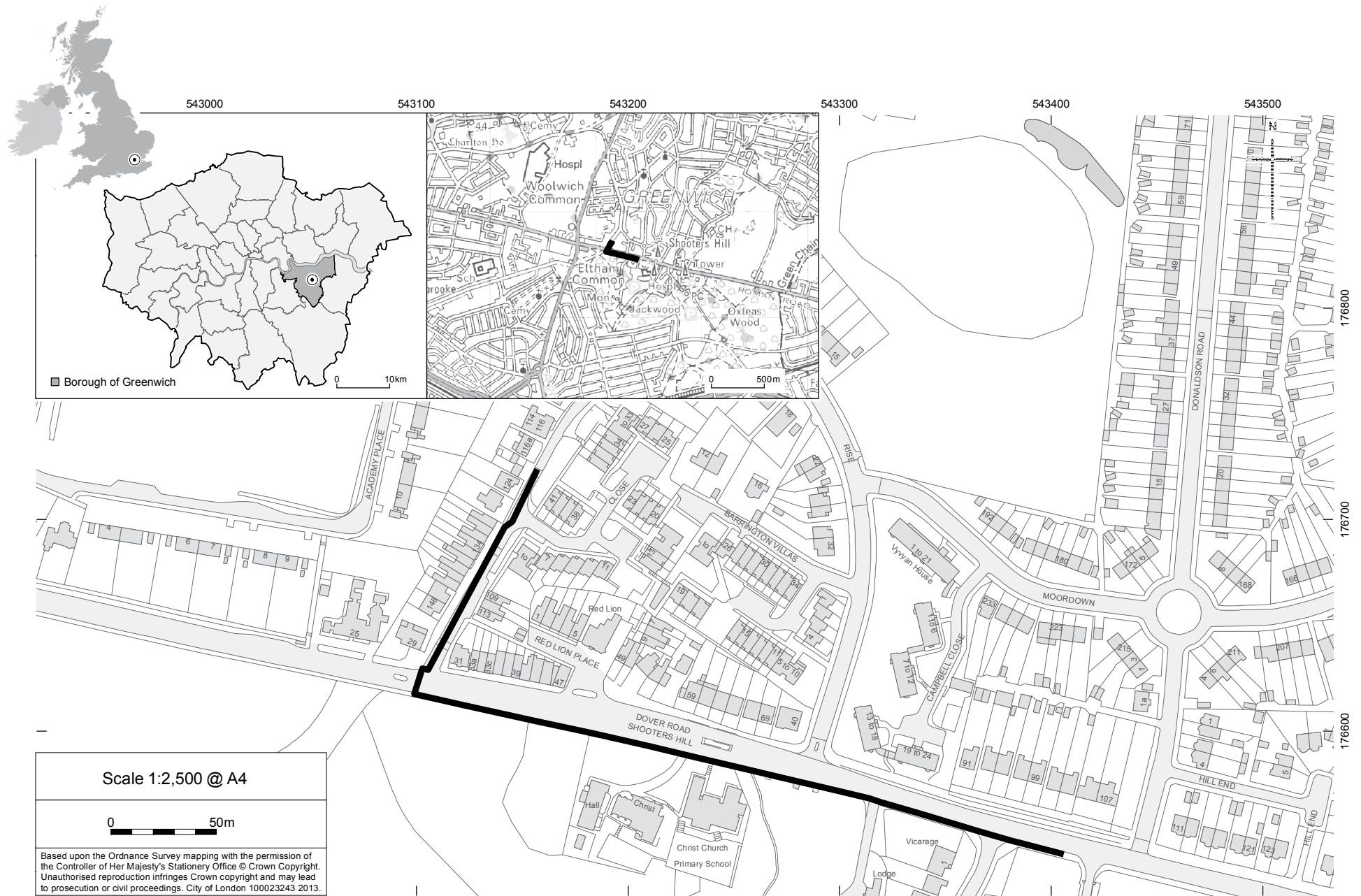
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	RLL13
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	RLL13
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Microfilm", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	UKPN Shooters Hill HV Cable Replacement, London SE3 7HS, RLL13, A report on the archaeological watching brief
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Scale 1:2,500 @ A4

0 50m

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Fig 1 Site location

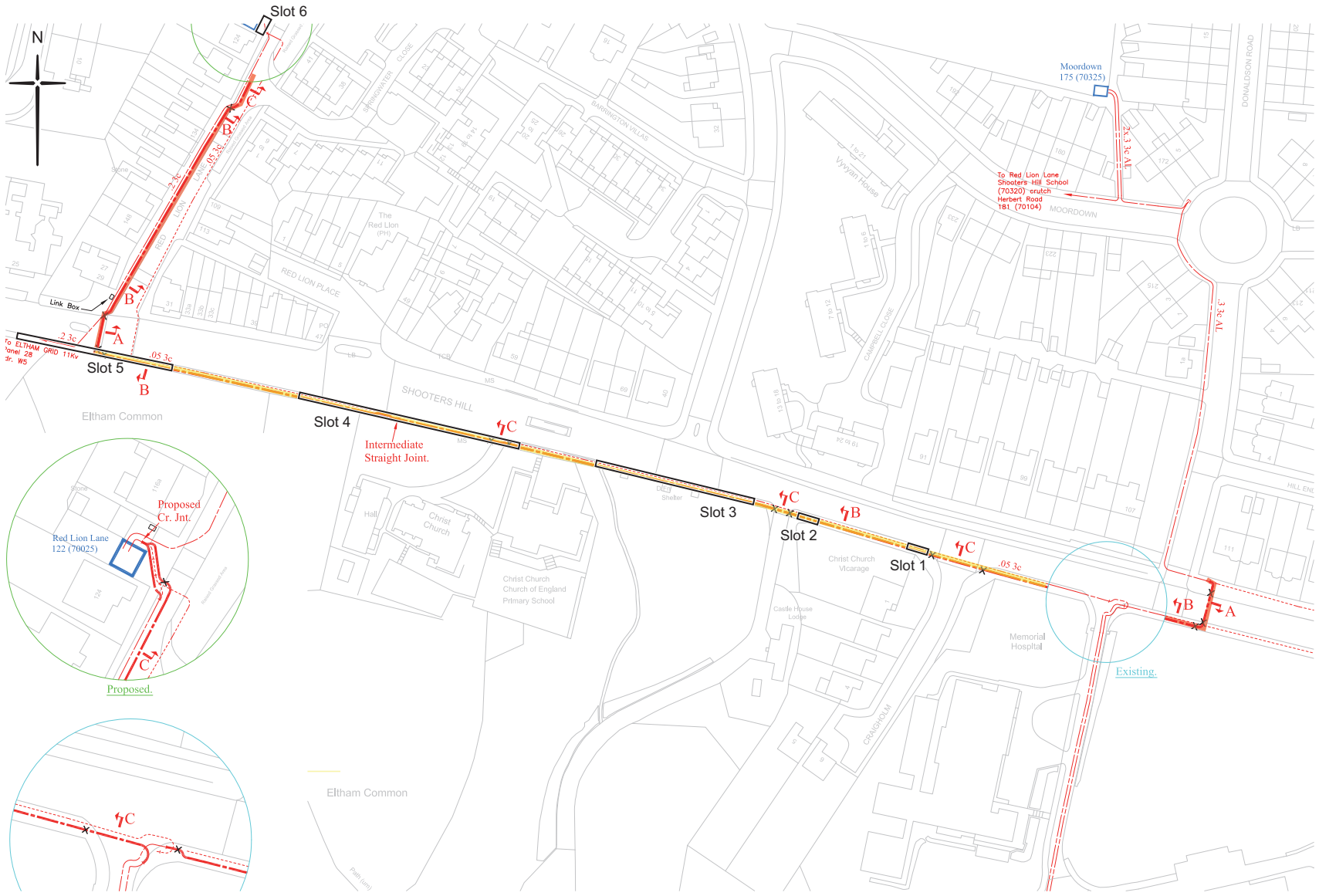


Fig 2 Monitored areas

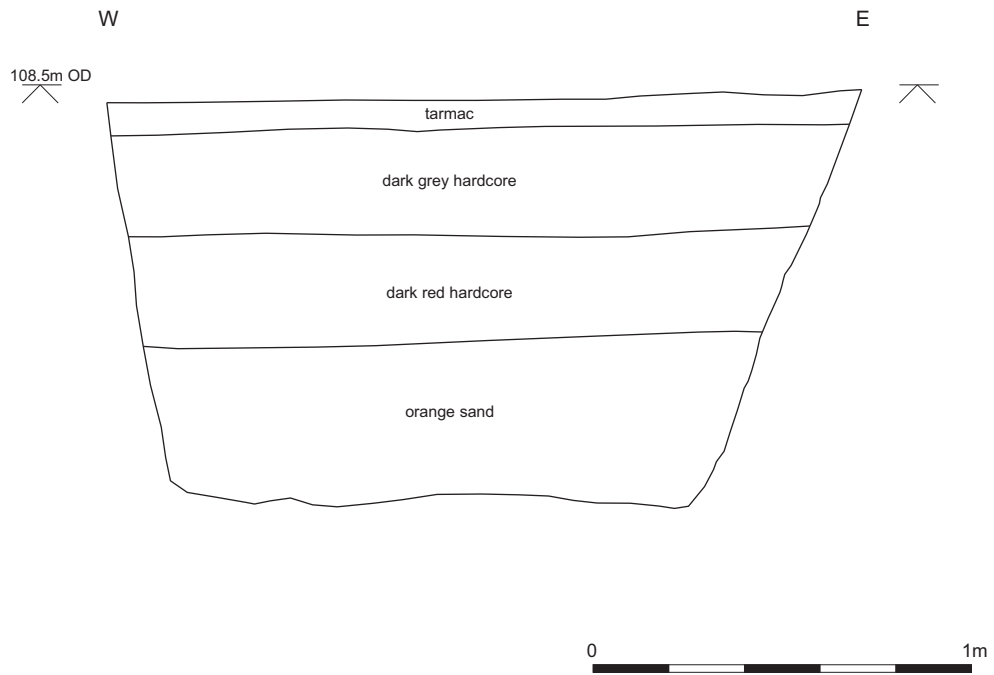


Fig 3 Slot 2 sample section

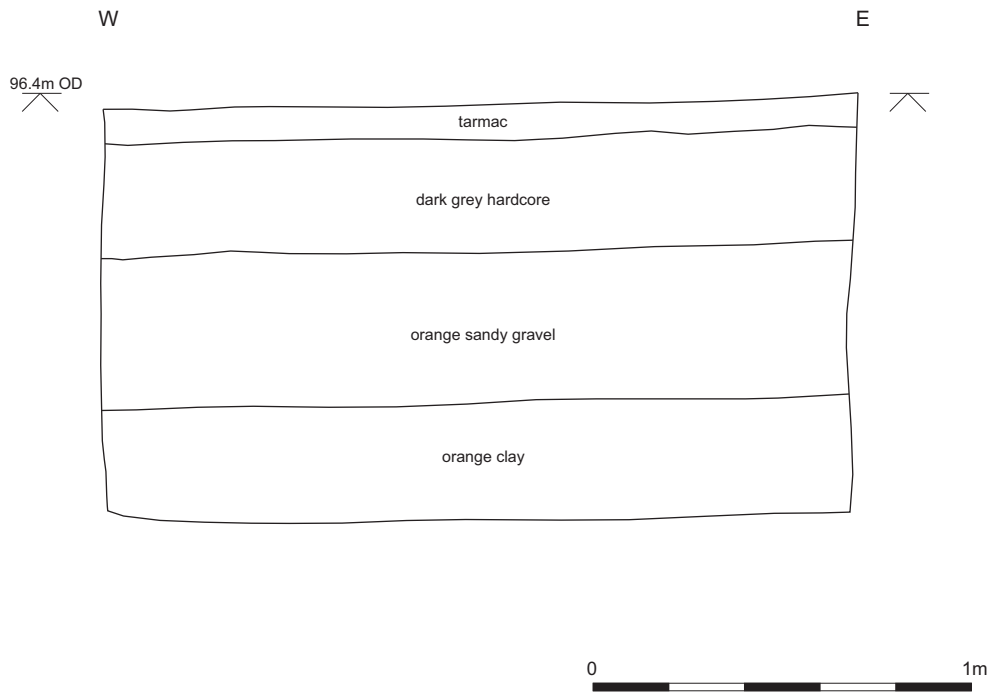


Fig 4 Slot 4 sample section



Fig 5 Slot 4 intermediate Straight Joint, north-facing section