



**65–75 SCRUTTON STREET
39–75 CURTAIN ROAD
London EC2**

London Borough of Hackney

Evaluation report

January 2014



**65–75 Scrutton Street / 39–47 Curtain Road
London Borough of Hackney
London
EC2**

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Report on an archaeological evaluation

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by MOLA at 39–65–75 Scrutton Street / 47 Curtain Road, London Borough of Hackney. The report was commissioned from MOLA by EC Harris on behalf of the client GHG London Realty Limited.

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2013) 10 engineering test pits, 2 geotechnical boreholes and 6 archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated on the site between 14th November to 16th December 2013.

The evaluation revealed the natural gravels are located at levels of 11.56m and 12.20m OD. Overlying the natural gravels was a layer of natural brickearth. The highest surviving brickearth was recorded within Trench 4, within the north-eastern part of the site, which measured 1.15m thick and was recorded at 12.71m OD. Brickearth levels dropped to the west, by c 0.30m, and were recorded at 12.55m OD in Trench 3, and at 12.40m OD within Trenches 1 and 2. The brickearth within Trenches 5 and 6 was slightly lower at 12.20m OD where it measured 0.40m thick. The changes in levels of the brickearth on the site may indicate that the brickearth surface was truncated by features such as pits, ditches, ponds or quarrying, possibly dating to the medieval period or earlier.

The earliest feature recorded on the site during the evaluation was cut into the natural brickearth in Trench 4. This was a possible late medieval feature, in the form of a butt-end of a ditch or southern side of a pit, and contained 15th-century pottery. Trenches 2 and 3 contained an undated alluvial deposit. This may indicate fluvial deposits within the middle and south-western parts of the site, resulting from water flowing over the site at some point.

Overlying the natural within each trench was the black gritty silt deposits of the post-medieval Holywell Mount 'laystall' (dung heap), measuring up to 3.80m thick (in unbasemented parts of the site) and recorded at a maximum height of 16.56m OD. This contained numerous sherds of 17th-century pottery, clay tobacco pipes, building material, animal bones and a few tin-glazed wall tiles.

Overlying the dump deposits of the 'laystall', in trenches 1–3, late post-medieval structural remains were recorded; including the brick floor of an early 19th-century building in Trench 2, granite setts and brick walls. These features were located in the top 1.5m of the site, in unbasemented areas, and were immediately overlain by modern concrete and hardcore.

Only one feature pre-dating the post-medieval period was recorded on the site (cut feature in Trench 4); however the possibility remains for additional earlier features located at the base of the sequence, cut into the natural brickearth. No human remains were recovered from the site despite numerous documentary references to burials in the area, and the potential for human remains must remain a possibility.

The report concludes that the archaeological deposits will be impacted by the redevelopment of the site. The proposed new basement would occupy the entire site footprint and would be excavated to a depth of 10m completely removing the archaeological strata and the upper portion of the brickearth and gravels.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at 39–47 Curtain Road / 65–75 Scrutton Street, Hackney ('the site'). The National Grid Reference is 533239 182276. The site code is SCT13 (Fig 1). Work was carried out between 14th November and 16th December 2013.

The site comprises an interconnected U-shaped building covering the whole site apart from an open courtyard area in the north. The site is bounded by Curtain Road to the east, Scrutton Street to the south, 57–63 Scrutton Street and 10 Christina Street to the west, and Christina Street to the north.

Modern pavement levels near to the site lie at c 15.80–16.60m OD and show a gradual downwards slope from west to east. The western part of the site is not basemented and the slab level here is 17.05m OD. The basement slab level in the eastern part of the site is 13.25m OD.

An *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* was previously prepared, which covered the whole area of the site (MoLAS, 2008). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential. Subsequent to this, an addendum letter was produced in December 2011, to include updated planning guidance.

1.2 Planning background

The Planning and legislative background to the site has been adequately summarised in the previous addendum letter to the Archaeological desk-based assessment (MOLA 22nd December 2011).

The site is being developed to create a hotel. The development received planning permission on 30th March 2012, reference number 2011/3593 and included condition number 9. The condition states:

No development shall take place until the applicant 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 by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: Important archaeological remains may exist on this site. Accordingly the planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development, in accordance with English Heritage guidance.

This archaeological evaluation is the first phase of the 'programme of archaeological work'.

1.3 Scope of the evaluation

Evaluation is defined by English Heritage as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

An archaeological evaluation is a limited fieldwork exercise designed to test the conclusions of preliminary desk based work. It is not the same as full excavation.

The evaluation was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for evaluation specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2009).

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

All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the evaluation (Section 2.2)

2 Topographical and historical background

A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the earlier Archaeological desk-based assessment (MoLAS 2008), with supplementary information provided in the addendum letter to the desk-based assessment (MOLA 22 December 2011).

2.1 Topography

Past investigations in the area have shown that the brickearth and gravel have been eroded by a number of small streams flowing south to join the Thames, c 1.75km to the south of the site. One of the larger of these was the River Walbrook (now underground), the north-western branch of which probably lies beneath or in the immediate vicinity of the site. In the main part of Shoreditch, the stream had eroded the brickearth away leaving a wide surrounding 'flood plain' of gravel and alluvium.

2.2 Archaeology

The nearest archaeological intervention to the site was an evaluation at 2–16 Phipp Street (PPI07), c 15m north-west of the site, which recorded archaeological strata c 3.5m deep. With the exception of an undated alluvial deposit, all archaeological structures, features and layers dated to the post-medieval period. Prior to residential occupation at Phipp Street, the land was utilised as a waste dumping area during the late 17th and early to mid 18th century.

The origin of the alluvial deposit is unclear. It may represent the north end of the Moorgate marsh, or possibly a tributary of the Walbrook stream. Although naturally-lain, it was thought that it may have sealed earlier archaeological features. In situ natural gravel was observed at 12.81m OD.

Historic maps of the site show that the site was undeveloped until the mid 18th century when Holywell Mount is depicted on Rocque's 1746 map of London (Fig 3). The Curtain Road is shown for the first time on the eastern side of the site, and a trackway to the south of the site is shown that later becomes Scrutton Street.

The mount was reputedly a burial ground for plague victims of the bubonic plague of 1665. The 1665 plague came from Holland and caused 49,605 deaths, as registered by the Bills of Mortality, although Defoe (1722) considered them to be at least 100,000. Defoe described the 1665 plague with detail and quoted some burial sites, including the Holy-Well Mount. Holmes (1896, 124–125) wrote 'This Holywell Mount burial-ground has been "in use" again since Defoe's time, and was also used as a plague-pit before 1665'. An 18th-century writer, H. Ellis (1798, 207-208), stated that the tradition mentioned 'this spot of ground as the burial receptacle of thousands who died of the plague in 1665'.

Afterwards, the mount was formed by the dumping of rubbish and debris from the 1666 Great Fire of London. It continued as an area for rubbish dumping and became the laystall for the ward of Bishopsgate until it was closed in 1765.

On 3 May 1778 a chapel and burial ground was opened at the mount (*Daily Advertiser* 1 May 1778). Holywell Mount was advertised for lease in 1784 when 'To receive proposals for a building lease, for 61 years of a large parcel of ground, called

Holywell Mount on the west side of Curtain Road, Shoreditch... D Seaman, Comptroller (*Public Advertiser* 23 March 1784). New houses were erected at the mount by December 1787. The *Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser* advertised two lots of houses with lot.1 Located at the corner of Motley Street and Phipp Street on Holywell Mount and lot. 2 at No.12 at Motley Street on Holywell Mount (*Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser* 17 December 1787).

Horwood's map of 1799 shows rows of terraced houses located along the northern, southern and eastern sides of the site (Fig 4). The central and western parts of the site are open and undeveloped. Scrutton Street is named in this map as 'Chapel Street', and Christina Street is called 'Motley Street'. This map shows a small alley leading to a small open yard to the south of the site, by Chapel Street.

By 1820 the population of Shoreditch had expanded to 53,000 and further housing development proceeded apace. Greenwood's map of 1824–26 (not reproduced) shows no change within the site. The Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st edition 25": mile map of 1870 (not reproduced) shows the site occupied by a large building to the north and a number of interconnected industrial buildings to the east and south around a small central courtyard with access at its south-western corner from Chapel Street. The earlier terraced houses which occupied the site have been demolished.

The OS 2nd edition 25": mile map of 1893 (not reproduced) shows little change. Chapel Street has been re-named as Scrutton Street. This map shows the construction of Great Eastern Street, c 40m to north-east of the site, with a tram line running along it. The OS 3rd edition 25": mile map of 1913 (not reproduced) and the OS 25": mile map of 1916 (not reproduced) show no change.

Goat fire insurance maps of the site show in detail how it was developed throughout the 20th century. During the early 20th century the site was covered by many small buildings, which are likely to have originated in the 19th or late 18th century. These buildings are a combination of residential, manufacturing premises and warehouses. South Shoreditch, and the Curtain Road area in particular, became the centre of the English furniture trade during the second half of the 19th century (Smith & Rogers, 2006), and a cabinet factory was still present on the site, and several others close, by in 1922. The central part of the site was an open courtyard used as a dairy, with stables fronting onto Christina Street at this time. The eastern part of the site was the location of an oil and colour warehouse and a lubricating oil warehouse.

3 Evaluation methodology

3.1 Field methodology

The fieldwork comprised archaeological monitoring of ten engineering test pits, two geotechnical boreholes, and excavation of six archaeological evaluation trenches. The locations are shown on Fig 2.

The two geotechnical boreholes were located within the central courtyard/car park. The engineering test pits were located at various positions along the internal walls of the current building, at ground floor and basement level.

Three archaeological trenches were located at ground level, and three at basement level:

- Trench 1 was 2m x 5m and was excavated from ground floor level, located in the north-west of the site.
- Trench 2 was 2m x 5m and was excavated from ground floor level, located in the south-west of the site.
- Trench 3 was 2m x 7.5m and was excavated from ground floor level, located in the central courtyard/car park.
- Trench 4 was 1.5m x 1.5m and was excavated from basement level, located in the north-east of the site.
- Trench 5 was 1.5m x 1.5m and was excavated from basement level, located in the south-east of the site.
- Trench 6 was 1.5m x 1.5m and was excavated from basement level, located in the south-east of the site.

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. Archaeological trenches were excavated by hand and were hand and power augured to depths of 5m below ground level by MOLA staff. Within two trenches (Trenches 1 and 3) machine excavated slots were dug to a depth of c 3m.

Archaeological excavation was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA, 2013).

3.2 Recording methodology

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA, 2013).

3.3 Site archive

Number of overall location plans	6
Number of Context (SU) sheets	14
Number of photographs	115
Number of Plan sheets	12
Number of Sections	6

4 Results of the evaluation

4.1 Evaluation trenches

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located within the north-western part of the site and measured 5m by 2m. This trench was hand augured, power augured to a depth of 5m bgl, hand excavated within a 1m square slot to a depth of 2.50m bgl, and machine-slotted to a depth of 2.50m bgl.

The power auger revealed the natural gravel at 5m below ground level at 12.10m OD. This was overlain by a 0.30m thick layer of orange brickearth recorded at 12.40m OD. Overlying the natural deposits was a 0.50m thick soft black silty clay, which was overlain by a 2.66m thick deposit of friable black gritty silt [14] with brick and tile fragments, oyster shell, animal bone, pottery and clay tobacco pipes. This in turn was overlain by a 0.20m thick black silt [13], a 0.20m thick mid grey silt with clay patches [12] and a further black silt [11] which was redeposited over a Victorian sewer pipe at the northern end of the trench. The top of the dumping sequence was recorded at 1m below ground level at 16.06m OD.

A 1m square hand excavated slot was dug through the dump deposits to a depth of 1m with a further smaller slot dug 0.50m deeper, at the base of the slot. The slot (mainly through context [14]) produced 73 clay tobacco pipe bowls, 168 pottery sherds and 20 animal bones.

Overlying the dumped deposits was a yard surface formed by granite sets [10] bedded onto concrete. These were 0.50m below ground level at 16.56m OD. Above this was brick rubble and concrete for the present building which lies at 17.06m OD.

Location	North-west
Dimensions	5m by 2m
Modern ground level/top of slab	17.06m OD
Base of modern slab and granite sets	16.06m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	3.50m
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	12.40m OD
Top of brickearth	12.40m OD
Top of gravel	12.10m OD

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located within the south-western part of the site and measured 5m by 2m. This trench was hand excavated to the top of a brick wall and floor surface, and was power augured to the top of the natural gravel. The power auger revealed the natural gravel at 4.90m bgl, at 12.10m OD. This was overlain by a 0.30m thick layer of orange brickearth recorded at 12.40m OD.

The natural was overlain by a 0.30m thick deposit of alluvial mid grey clay recorded at 12.70m OD. Overlying the alluvial deposit was a dump deposit comprising a

0.70m thick deposit of black silty clay overlain by a 2.35m thick friable black gritty silt [24] with brick and tile fragments, animal bone, oyster shell, clay tobacco pipe and pottery and recorded at 15.85m OD. This was overlain by 0.10m thick compacted consolidation deposit of light grey mortar and tile fragments [23] which was overlain by a 0.17m thick deposit of black silt [22].

Overlying the black silt was a late 18th-early 19th-century brick floor [21] comprising red unfrosted bricks (230x120x50mm) measuring 2m north-south by 2.30m east-west. The top was recorded at 15.95m OD. On top of the floor surface was a 0.15m thick demolition layer of friable black silt with brick rubble [16] with sherds of 19th-century pottery.

This deposit was truncated by a north-south aligned 19th-century brick wall [20]. It measured 0.65m wide (east-west) by 0.70m high. It was constructed from red bricks (230x100x60mm) bonded with a mid grey mortar. Along the western side of the wall was a line of granite sets [17] and a stone slab between the sets and the wall. Further west was a floor surface of flagstones [31] recorded at 16.30m OD.

Overlying the brick floor and wall was a demolition deposit of brick rubble overlain by the concrete slab for the present building recorded at 17.05m OD.

Location	South-west
Dimensions	5m by 2m
Modern ground level/top of slab	17.05m OD
Base of modern slab	16.20m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	4.05m
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	12.40m OD
Top of brickearth	12.40m OD
Top of gravel	12.10m OD

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located within the external yard, within the middle part of the site, and measured 7.50m by 2m. This trench was power augured to the natural gravel and a 3m deep slot was excavated through the deposits at the southern end. The power auger revealed the natural gravel 4.50m below ground level at 12.20m OD. This was overlain by a 0.35m thick layer of orange brickearth recorded at 12.55m OD.

The natural was overlain by a 0.55m thick deposit of alluvial mid grey clay with roots and flecks recorded at 13.10m OD. Overlying the alluvial deposit was a 2.90m thick dump of friable black gritty silt [30] with brick and tile fragments, animal bone, oyster shell, clay tobacco pipe and pottery and recorded at 16.00m OD.

At the northern end of the trench was a 19th-century brick wall [28] comprising two courses of brick and measuring 1.50m north-south by 0.20m wide (to the trench section). It was constructed from red unfrosted bricks with two yellow brick at the southern end of the wall.

Crossing the middle of the trench was an east-west aligned 19th-century yellow stock brick wall placed upon concrete and gravel foundations. To the south of the wall was a yard surface of granite sets recorded at 16.60m OD. The top of the ground surface was recorded at 16.70m OD.

Location	Outside yard
Dimensions	7.50m by 2m
Modern ground level	16.70m OD
Base of modern slab	16.50m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	3.65m
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	12.55m OD
Top of brickearth	12.55m OD
Top of gravel	12.20m OD

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located within the northern part of the basement, on the east of the site, and measured 1.50m square. This trench was hand augured which revealed the natural gravel at 11.56m OD. This was overlain by a 1.15m thick layer of orange brickearth recorded at 12.71m OD.

Truncating the brickearth, within the northern part of the trench, was a possible feature measuring 1.20m north-south by 0.80m east-west (to the limits of excavation) by 0.30m deep. The southern end of the feature appears to be a butt-end of a ditch or southern side of a pit. It was filled [7] with a black silt which produced possible 15th-century pottery. This was overlain by the concrete slab measuring 0.40m thick and recorded at 13.26m OD.

Location	Northern part of basement
Dimensions	1.50m by 1.50m
Modern ground level/top of slab	13.26m OD
Base of modern slab	12.86m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	0.30m
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	12.46m OD
Top of brickearth	12.71m OD
Top of gravel	11.56m OD

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located within the eastern part of the basement and measured 1.50m square. This trench was hand augured which revealed the natural gravel at 11.80m OD. This was overlain by a 0.40m thick layer of orange brickearth recorded at 12.20m OD.

The natural was overlain by a 0.70m thick deposit of friable black gritty silt [2] with brick and tile fragments, animal bone, oyster shell, clay tobacco pipe and pottery and recorded at 12.85m OD. This was overlain by the concrete slab measuring 0.40m thick and recorded at 13.25m OD.

Location	Eastern part of basement
Dimensions	1.50m by 1.50m
Modern ground level/top of slab	13.25m OD
Base of modern slab	12.85m OD

Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	0.70m
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	12.20m OD
Top of brickearth	12.20m OD
Top of gravel	11.80m OD

Trench 6

Trench 6 was located within the western part of the basement and measured 1.50m square. The orange brickearth was recorded at 12.20m OD. The natural was overlain by a 0.70m thick deposit of friable black gritty silt [4], [5] with brick and tile fragments, animal bone, oyster shell, clay tobacco pipe and pottery and recorded at 12.86m OD. This was overlain by the concrete slab measuring 0.40m thick and recorded at 13.26m OD.

Location	Western part of basement
Dimensions	1.50m by 1.50m
Modern ground level/top of slab	13.26m OD
Base of modern slab	12.86m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	0.70m
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	12.20m OD
Top of brickearth	12.20m OD
Top of gravel	N/A

4.2 Engineering Test Pits

OP1

This test pit was located within the middle part of the site and comprised 0.40m thick concrete and hardcore continuing in depth.

OP2

This test pit was located within the north-western part of the site and comprised 1m thick concrete and hardcore onto black silt producing clay tobacco pipes and animal bone.

OP3

This test pit was located within the western part of the site and comprised 1m thick concrete and hardcore.

OP4

This test pit was located within the south-western part of the site and comprised 0.90m thick concrete onto brickearth.

OP5

This test pit was located within the southern part of the site and comprised 0.40m thick concrete onto brickearth.

OP6

This test pit was located within the southern part of the site and comprised 1m thick concrete onto brickearth.

OP7

Only the concrete was broken.

OP8

Only the concrete was broken.

OP9

This test pit was located within the eastern part of the site and comprised 1m thick concrete.

OP10

Not excavated.

4.3 Geotechnical boreholes

BH1

Borehole 1 was located within the southern part of the open yard/car park in the centre of the site. The natural gravel was reached at 5.30m bgl at 11.20m OD. Overlying the gravel was a 2.30m thick firm light blue-grey slightly gravelly clay with fine gravel with the top at 13.50m OD. This was overlain by a 1.50m thick dark brown slightly organic sandy and gravelly silt with the top at 15.00m OD. This was overlain by a 1.10m thick grey-brown sandy gravel which was overlain by the hardcore, granite sets and tarmac for the current yard surface which is recorded at 16.50m OD.

Location	South part of yard
Dimensions	150mm diameter to 10.00m
Modern ground level/top of slab	16.50m OD
Base of modern slab	16.10m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	4.90m
Top of gravel	11.20m OD

BH2

Borehole 2 was located within the northern part of the open yard/car park in the centre of the site. The natural gravel was reached at 5.50m bgl at 11.20m OD. Overlying the gravel was a 0.40m thick deposit of light grey-brown gravelly clay recorded at 11.60m OD. This was overlain by a 1.60m thick deposit of brown and orange-brown slightly sandy clayey silt recorded at 13.20m OD. This was overlain by a 1.30m thick deposit of dark brown slightly organic sandy slightly gravelly silt with red brick. The top was recorded at 14.50m OD. This was overlain by a 1.80m thick deposit of light grey-brown silty and gravelly sand with red and yellow brick fragments. The top was recorded at 16.30m OD. This was overlain by the hardcore, granite sets and tarmac for the current yard surface which is recorded at 16.70m OD.

Location	North part of yard
Dimensions	150mm diameter to 10.00m
Modern ground level/top of slab	16.70m OD
Base of modern slab	16.30m OD

Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	5.10m
Top of gravel	11.20m OD

4.4 The finds

Due to the nature of the site, being on a post-medieval rubbish dump, it contains a large number of finds. Finds recovered during the evaluation included animal bone, ceramic building material (CBM), pottery, clay tobacco pipes (CTP), glass, and a small number of metal objects. A summary table of finds information listed by context number can be found in Appendix 1.

Pottery

A total of 358 pottery sherds from 16 contexts were recovered during the evaluation. The earliest recorded pottery was from the fill [7] of a feature cut into the natural in Trench 4. This was dated to 1400–1500. The majority of the pottery from all other contexts was dated to 1630–1700. The pottery recovered from the site may have been in circulation for a while before deposition, therefore could have been deposited on the site in the 18th century.

CBM

A large amount of building material was recovered from the site, comprising brick, roof tiles, floor tiles, and paving stone, dating from the 15th to 19th centuries; with one roof tile of possible late medieval date (1180–1480). Flemish and tin-glazed floor tiles dating to 1570–1650, and two decorated floor tiles dating to 1630–1650 were also recovered. The CBM found on the site could have been the result of demolition of earlier buildings which pre-date the date of deposition on the site.

CTP

The clay pipes recovered from the site can be dated quite accurately. These were found to be of three main types, dating to 1660–1680, 1680–1710, and 1700–1770. Pipes are a good indicator of the date of the Holywell Mount rubbish dump, as they would have been smoked and dumped relatively quickly.

Animal bone

A total of 277 fragments of animal bone from 11 contexts were recovered from the site. No human bone was found. Types of animal bones recorded are: sheep, goat, pig, chicken, cattle, rabbit, and fish (including cod and plaice).

Glass and metal

A small amount of 17th century bottle and window was recorded on the site, along with a small amount of undated slag and a nail.

4.5 The site as a whole

The archaeological evaluation has revealed the depth, survival, and truncation levels of the archaeological remains on the site. A cross-section of the site can be found on Figure 13. The height of the natural gravel ranged from 11.56m OD (Trench 4), 11.80m OD (Trench 5) to 12.10m OD (Trench 1 and 2) and 12.20m OD (Trench 3). The results indicate a slight drop in the natural from west to east by c 0.50m.

The height of the gravel is contemporary with the nearby sites. At 86–90 Curtain Road (CNU02), c 85m to the north-east of the site, the natural gravel within clay was

recorded at 11.80m OD and at 183–185 Shoreditch High Street, c 165m north-east of the site (HLP89) the natural gravel was recorded at c 11.50m OD.

Overlying the natural gravel was brickearth. The highest surviving brickearth was recorded in Trench 4, within the north-eastern part of the site, which was 1.15m thick and its surface recorded at 12.71m OD. The brickearth dropped to the west by c 0.30m, where it was recorded in Trench 3, measuring 0.35m thick with its surface at 12.55m OD, and in Trenches 1 and 2, measuring 0.30m thick with its surface at 12.40m OD. The brickearth within Trenches 5 and 6 was slightly lower at 12.20m OD and it was 0.40m thick. The changes in level of the brickearth may indicate that it was truncated by later 16th-17th-century features such as pits, ditches, ponds or quarrying.

The levels of the brickearth recorded on the site are similar to levels of the brickearth within the locality. At 97–113 Curtain Road, c 190m north of the site (CUA98) the brickearth was recorded at 12.76m OD. At 183–185 Shoreditch High Street, c 165m north-east of the site (HLP89) the brickearth was recorded at c 12.56m OD.

Overlying the brickearth within Trench 2 was a 0.30m thick deposit of alluvial mid grey clay recorded at 12.70m OD. A similar 0.55m thick mid grey clay with roots flecks was recorded within Trench 3 at 13.10m OD. This may indicate fluvial deposits within the middle and south-western parts of the site. Previous archaeological investigations at 86–90 Curtain Road (CNU02), c 85m to the north-east of the site, identified a fluvial deposit likely to be Quaternary in date as well as a clay deposit, possibly indicating a marshy terrain (Bowsher 2003, 23). In addition, an archaeological investigation c 15m to north-west of the site (PPI07) identified alluvial deposits probably related to the Walbrook or a tributary, which probably lay close to the site.

Within Trench 4 was a 0.30m deep cut feature, containing 15th-century pottery, which may be a butt-end of a ditch or southern side of a pit. This pre-dates the rubbish dump, and relates to late medieval activity on the site.

Overlying the above deposits within each trench, was the black gritty silt of the 'laystall' (the dung heap known as Holywell Mount). The laystall deposit measured up to 3.80m thick, where its surface was recorded at 16.56m OD. The deposit is rich in finds, and contained numerous sherds of mid to late 17th-century pottery, clay tobacco pipes, animal bones and a few tin-glazed wall tiles. A 1m square test pit hand excavated within trench 1 produced some 73 clay tobacco pipe bowls, 168 pottery sherds and 20 animal bones.

Overlying the dump deposits of the 'laystall', within Trench 2, was the floor of an early 19th-century building which appears to have been re-built in the mid 19th-century. This building is likely to be the industrial buildings shown on the 19th-century maps. Within Trenches 1–3 the modern concrete and hardcore immediately overlay the granite sets for the present buildings.

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Answering original research aims

A number of broad objectives and research questions had been identified for the evaluation:

1. *Is there any evidence for the Walbrook running through the site? Do palaeoenvironmental remains survive on the site?*

There is no firm evidence of the river Walbrook crossing the site. The alluvial clay recorded within Trenches 2 and 3 may have been deposited by water action, however at present these deposits remain un-dated.

2. *Is there evidence for human remains on the site in the form of articulated burials or disarticulated remains? At what depth are human remains present and what area of the site do they cover? Are these in clear grave cuts or a mass grave?*

There is no evidence of human remains within the areas excavated on the site, despite document sources referencing burials on the site.

3. *Is there any evidence for civil war defences on the site?*

There is no evidence of civil war defences on the site.

4. *What evidence is there for Holywell Mount?*

The lower deposits of the Mount (laystall) appear to be the black gritty silt deposits recorded within each trench. This deposit measured some 3.80m thick in unbasemented parts of the site, and contained numerous finds dating to the mid to late 17th century.

5. *What evidence is there for the first phase of development on the site, dating from the late 18th century? Were any manufacturing or industrial activities taking place at this time?*

The first phase development on the site dating to the early 19th century was recorded in the form of the brick floor and later walls found in Trench 2. No artefacts or features were found to identify the function of the building.

6. *Is there any evidence relating to the 19th century use for the site, for example evidence for the dairy or manufacturing businesses on the site?*

The 19th century use of the site is recorded in the form of the building found in Trench 2 and the small wall located at the northern end of Trench 3.

7. *Does the 19th century yard surface exist in the central part of the site?*

The yard surface is formed by granite sets laid upon concrete which were found in Trenches 1 and 3.

8. What is the nature and level of natural topography? Does brickearth exist on the site?

The natural was formed by gravel overlain by brickearth. The highest surviving brickearth was recorded within Trench 4, within the north-eastern part of the site at 12.71m OD. It dropped to the west by c 0.30m and it was recorded at 12.55m OD in Trench 3 and at 12.40m OD within Trench 1 and 2. The brickearth within Trenches 5 and 6 was slightly lower at 12.20m OD.

9. What is the extent of modern disturbance? How does archaeological survival differ in the eastern part of the site to the western part of the site?

The archaeological survival within the eastern and central parts of the site exist immediately beneath the present concrete slab and survives to c 4.50m in depth. The eastern part of the site is truncated by the present basement. The slab floor is recorded at 13.26m OD and beneath this is 0.70m of archaeology onto brickearth recorded at 12.20m OD.

10. What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest feature identified was the possible cut feature recorded within Trench 4 dating to the late medieval period; this contained 15th century pottery.

11. What are the latest deposits identified?

The latest deposits identified date to the 19th and 20th centuries, and comprise granite setts and brick walls.

5.2 General discussion of potential

The archaeological evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of brickearth and underlying gravels is good. There is the possibility that the brickearth may be cut by features such as pits, ditches and ponds. There is also the possibility that Roman burials may exist on the site cut into the brickearth. Close by, some 180m to the east at Holywell Priory, Roman burials were discovered truncating the brickearth. Further to the south-east at Principle Place, some 230m from the site, some 25 burials and 3 cremations of Roman date were found.

Although no human bones were found during the evaluation this does not rule out the presence of human burials. The documentary sources suggest that plague victims of 1665 were buried within a possible cemetery and these bodies formed a mound above ground which was covered over by earth. Subsequently, the debris of the Great Fire of 1666 was taken from London and dumped over the plague corpses and the surrounding area. This formed the base of what became known as 'Holywell Mount'. Successive dumping of rubbish formed the mount, or 'laystall', covering over 3 acres and was probably c 25 feet in height. It was started to be removed in 1765 and houses and a chapel and houses were built on the site.

The laystall is referred to in several documentary sources:

From 1671, by Orders of the Commissioners of the Sewers: *'That the dung, mud, filth and soil...of the ward of Bishopsgate, within and without, to the laystall at Holloway Lane end, being part of a meadow there belonging to the City'*. Each ward had its own laystall for the dumping of waste (quoted in Entick, J (Reverend) 1766).

In 1745 Holywell Mount was advertised to be sold: *'To be sold and fetch'd away at 2d. a load The Mount call'd Holywell Mount situate at the end of Holywell-Street in Shoreditch... and compost, very proper for farmers, gardeners, brickmakers & c. Enquire of Mr. Ashmore. At the Old Lampblack sheds near the said mount'* (The Daily Advertiser 19 August 1745).

The *Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser* of 20 April 1765 advertises the removal of Holywell Mount *'The Committee for letting the Lands and Tenements of the City of London, do hereby give notice, that the Mount, called Holywell Mount, near Moorefields, is intended to be taken away: Therefore who ever shall for the future bring any soil, dirt, or rubbish to the said Mount will be prosecuted. And who ever shall have occasion for any of the soil or dirt which composes the said Mount, may take away whatever Quantity they shall think proper without paying anything for the same'*. D Seaman, Comptroller (The *Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser* 20 April 1765).

'On Tuesday the servant of a Farmer inn Kingsland Road was killed as he was filling a Load at Holywell Mount, by the earth falling in upon them: He is the third person that has met with the like Accident at that place' (Public Advertiser 28 February 1766).

'We are told that a fine handsome large square will soon be begun to be built on the spot where Holywell Mount stands, the rubbish being now clearing away with all possible expedition, it being intended for Merchants of this City' (London Evening Post 6 March 1766).

William Goodhugh of 1827 records *'On the side towards Shoreditch extended, for a considerable length, the Curtain Tenter Ground, of which some remains are still to be seen, and opposite was a very considerable, tumulus called Holywell Mount, which, probably had the same original as the mount at Whitechapel, and was, like that; the receptacle for the bodies of those that died in the plague. The mount in the Curtain Road, has, many years since, been removed, and manufactories and houses built upon its site; but as an instance of its height, I have been credible informed, that when the fire-works were exhibited in the Green Park in the year 1748, a very great number of persons assembles upon it, and if they had not so good a view of the spectacle as some who, in more ways than one, ventured their lives for the satisfaction of their curiosity, they certainly were in a situation in which no danger could be apprehended. On this hill, there was a single house, the last tenant of which used to attend fairs, with shews & c.'* (Goodhugh, W 1827).

The archaeological evaluation has revealed that, despite references to the laystall being cleared, evidence of the lower parts of the laystall survives in all parts of the site. In unbasemented parts of the site, up to c 4m of laystall deposits survive, and in basemented parts of the site c 0.70m laystall deposits survive. Any human remains

which may be on the site are likely to be either cut into the brickearth and/or overlying the brickearth, at the base of the laystall deposits.

The mount itself has potential to add to our understanding of the disposal of rubbish 17th and 18th century London. It contains a large number of artefacts which can give an understating of the types of household and industrial waste during this period.

The 18th/19th century buildings recorded on the site have the potential for the understanding of the houses and factories which covered the site.

5.3 Significance

The archaeological remains are of local significance and may provide information about plague victims, and may confirm the date, nature and deposition of rubbish at Holywell mount during the 17th and 18th centuries. They may also add to our knowledge of late-medieval land use in the area.

5.4 Assessment of the evaluation

The archaeological evaluation successfully provided information as to the nature and depths of the natural gravel and the survival of the overlying brickearth. It also provided the thickness, nature and levels of the archaeological horizons, which, on this site is represented by up to c 4m of dumped material dating to the 17th-18th centuries. This is overlain by late 19th-20th century buildings and yard surfaces.

No human remains were recovered during the archaeological evaluation, however, their presence cannot be ruled out.

The greatest survival of archaeological deposits was found within the un-basemented areas of the site within the eastern and central areas.

6 Proposed development impact and conclusions

Taking into account the results in all the trenches, archaeological deposits survive in all areas of the site, with considerably less in the basemented areas.

The proposed redevelopment involves the construction of a mixed development of office and hotel with basement. The basement would occupy the entire site footprint.

The baring piles, secant pile wall and excavation for new basements would impact upon the surviving archaeological deposits and would completely remove the archaeological deposits and the underlying brickearth and upper part of the natural gravels to a depth of 10m below ground level, to c 7.00m OD. If piling takes place prior to basement excavation, then this would impact on archaeological remains.

The planning condition placed on the development is for a 'programme of archaeological work', which includes, where necessary, archaeological mitigation prior to removal of archaeological deposits by the proposed development. The decision on the appropriate archaeological mitigation for the site rests with the London Borough of Hackney and the archaeological advisor at English Heritage. In the light of the results of the archaeological evaluation, MOLA considers that a possible mitigation strategy for the site would involve: rapid recording and excavation of 19th–20th century surfaces and walls, located within the top 1.5m of the site (where unbasemented); followed by a watching brief during machine excavation of 'laystall' dump deposits, accompanied by a suitable and robust strategy for finds retrieval. The lower 1m of dump deposits overlying the brickearth would be subject to a more intensive watching brief, with provision made for slowing ground reduction so that archaeological features may be rapidly recorded and hand-excavated where necessary. The purpose of this is to make provision for the possibility of human bones being present at this level, and to record any earlier features cut into the natural brickearth. If piling takes place prior to ground reduction for the basement, then provision would need to be made for monitoring this.

The archaeological mitigation work will require a new Written Scheme of Investigation, which must be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of work.

7 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

7.1 OASIS ID: molas1-168498

Project details

Project name	65-75 Scrutton Street / 39-47 Curtain Road
Short description of the project	The evaluation revealed the natural gravels and brickearth overlain by the black silt of Holywell Mount 'dungheap/laystall' measuring up to 3.80m thick. It contained numerous sherds of 17th-century pottery, clay tobacco pipes, animal bones and a few tin-glazed wall tiles. Overlying the dump deposits of the 'dungheap', within Trench 2, was the floor of a 19th-century building which appears to have been re-built in the 19th century. Within Trenches 1-3 the modern concrete and hardcore immediately overlay the stone sets for the yard the 19th-20th century factories which were located on the site.
Project dates	Start: 14-11-2013 End: 16-12-2013
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SCT13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	DUNG HEAP Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY 65-75 Scrutton Street / 39-47 Curtain Road
Postcode	EC2A 3ES
Study area	1320.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 533239 182276 50 0 50 56 33 N 000 10 57 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.56m Max: 12.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	MOLA

Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Louise Davies
Project supervisor	David Saxby
Type of sponsor/funding body	GHG London Realty
Name of sponsor/funding body	GHG London Realty

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey","none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Manuscript","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Entered by	David Saxby (dsaxby@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	13 January 2014

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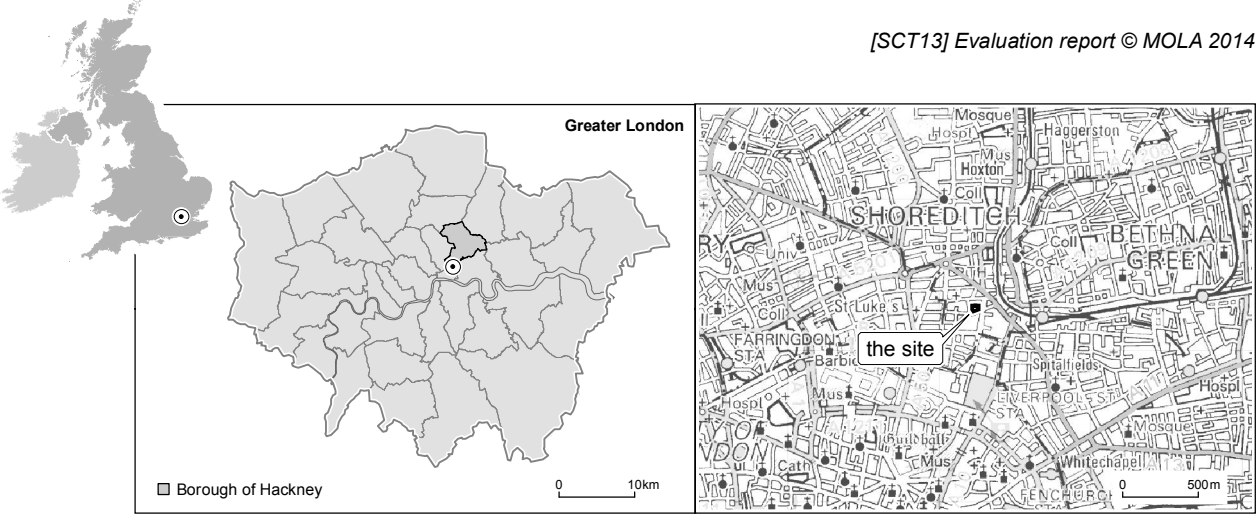
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10 Appendix 1: Summary table of finds information

Context	Material	Sherds/ Fragments	Date	Brief Comments
1	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	5		Adult cattle and adult sheep/goat chopped horn core and sub-adult pig
1	POST MEDIEVAL CBM	6	1666-1900	Brick and tile
1	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	3	1612-50	London delftware charger/ London redware industrial vessel
2	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	40		Adult and infant cattle and adult and juvenile sheep/goat including chopped horn cores and 1 adult sheep/goat showing pathological change and adult and juvenile pig
2	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE (Sample 1)	175		Adult chicken and juvenile cattle and adult sheep/goat and adult and juvenile pig and juvenile rabbit 15 fish bones including 1 plaice and adult cod
2	NAIL	1		Rectangular shaft fragment
2	POST MEDIEVAL CBM	4	1480-1800	Roof tile
2	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	29	1580-1600	Includes Frechen stoneware/London Essex red ware
2	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY			
2	WINDOW GLASS (POST-MEDIEVAL)	7	17th-18thc.	Fragments of green window glass
4	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	1	1680-1710	
4	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	2		Infant cattle and juvenile sheep/goat
4	POST MEDIEVAL CBM	2	1480-1800	Roof tile and paving stone
4	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	2	1550-1700	
4	STONE			
5	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	2		Infant and adult cattle
5	POST MEDIEVAL CBM	1	1480-1550	Brick and roof tile
5	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	2	1550-1700	
7	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL	1	1480-1800	Roof tile
7	POTTERY	1	1400-1500	
11	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	2		Infant calf
11	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	7	1680-1710	
11	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	21	1630-1700	Includes London delftware
12	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	3		Adult cattle and juvenile sheep/goat
12	BOTTLE GLASS (POST-MEDIEVAL)	1	Late 17th c.	Base of cylindrical phial, light green
12	POST MEDIEVAL CBM	5	1580-1800	Flemish floor and medieval roof tile
12	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	36	1630-1700	Includes London delftware/Surrey Hampshire boarder ware/ London redware
12	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE			
13	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	10		Juvenile and adult cattle and infant lamb and adult an juvenile sheep goat and 1 sheep/goat lower jaw shows pathological change
13	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	31	1680-1710	

13	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	48	1670-1700	Includes London delftware/Surrey Hampshire boarder ware/ London redware/London stoneware
13	SLAG	1		911gms
14	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	6		Cattle and adult and juvenile sheep/goat and sub-adult pig
14	BOTTLE GLASS (POST-MEDIEVAL)	2	17th c.	Light green bottle glass
14	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	32	1680-1710	
14	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	67	1670-1700	Includes London delftware/Surrey Hampshire boarder ware/ London redware/Rhenish stoneware
14	WINDOW GLASS (POST-MEDIEVAL)	2	17th c.	Green window glass
15	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	14	1680-1710	
16	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	10	1807-1820	Includes pearlware
21	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL	1	1600-1900	Brick
21	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	1	1660-1680	
21	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	4	1630-1700	
22	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	2	1840-1900	
24	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	3	1680-1710	Includes 1 pipe bowl 1610-40
24	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	9	1630-1700	Includes London delftware
29	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	1	1800-1900	
30	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	1		Juvenile cattle
30	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	3	1700-1770	
30	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	45	1670-1700 (1700-1800)	Includes London delftware/Surrey Hampshire boarder ware/ London redware/Rhenish stoneware/Nottinghamshire stoneware/ English porcelain
30	POST MEDIEVAL CBM	1	1570-1650	Tin glazed floor tile
31	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	29		Adult and juvenile cattle and adult and juvenile sheep/goat and adult chicken and 2 fragments calcined bone
31	BOTTLE GLASS (POST-MEDIEVAL)	1	Late 17th c.	Base of shaft, globe bottle
31	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	19	1680-1710	Includes 1660-1680 pipes
31	POST MEDIEVAL CBM	4	1630-1650	2 Roof tile/ 2 Floor tiles
31	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	41	1630-1650	Includes London delftware/Surrey Hampshire boarder ware/ London redware/Rhenish stoneware
31	WINDOW GLASS (POST-MEDIEVAL)			
32	ANIMAL AND NON-HUMAN BONE	2		Adult sheep/goat
32	BOTTLE GLASS (POST-MEDIEVAL)	1	Late 17th c.	Rim/shoulder form globular green glass phial
32	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	13	1680-1710	Includes 1660-1680 pipes
32	POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY	37	1630-1650	Includes London delftware/Surrey Hampshire boarder ware/ London redware/Rhenish stoneware
32	POST MEDIEVAL CBM	1	1180-1480	Roof tile
11 <1>	LEAD-ZZZ	1	17th c.	Triangular lead sheeting
31 <2>	STON-HONE	1	?17th c.	Could be late medieval or post-medieval
31 <3>	CERA-TILE	1	1630-1650	Floor tile decorated with a ship
31 <4>	CERA-TILE	1	1630-1650	Floor tile decorated with a ship
2 <5>	LEAD-WAST			

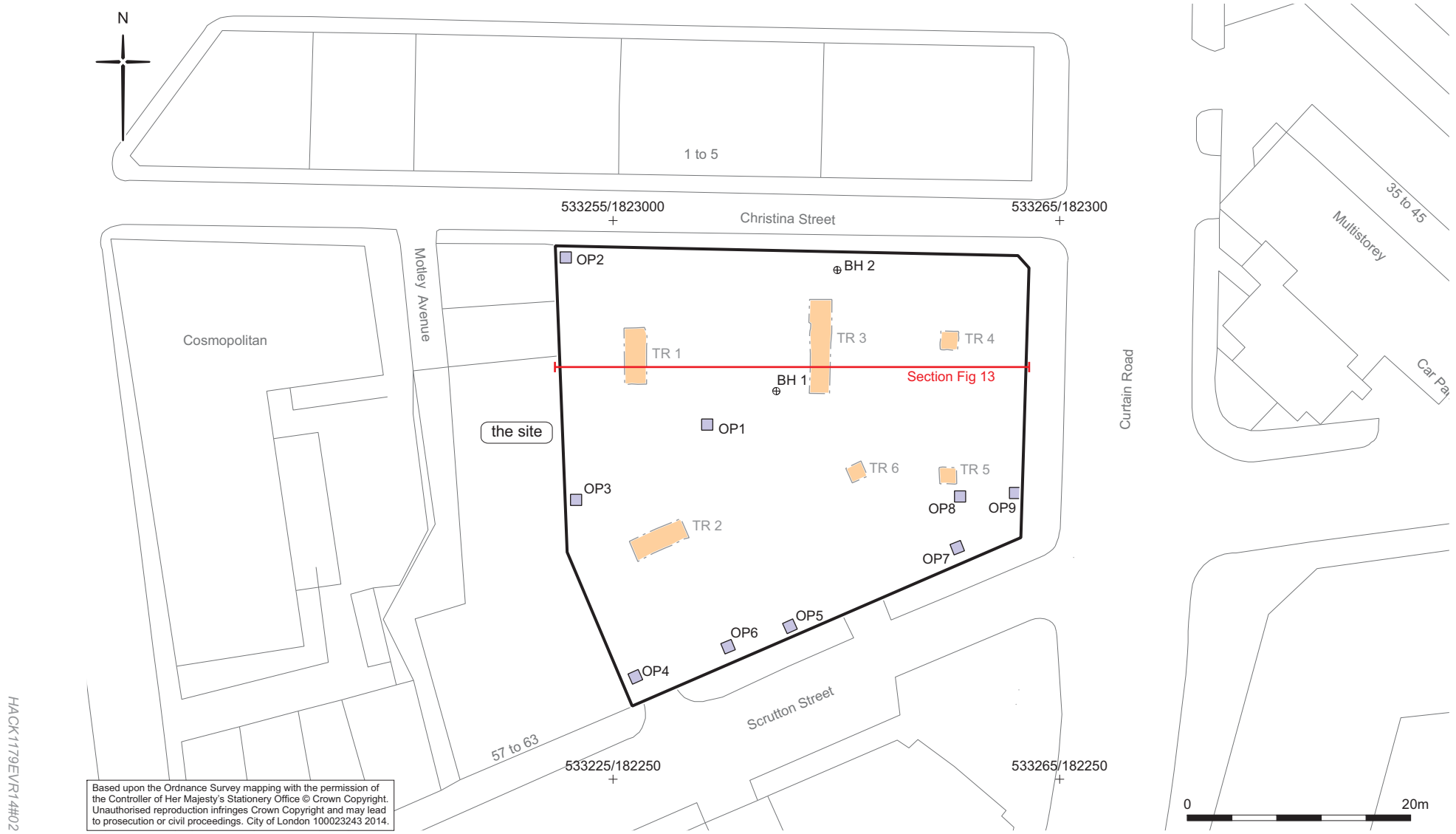


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Scale 1:1,000 @ A4

0 50m

Fig 1 Site location



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Fig 2 Trench, borehole and engineers test pits location

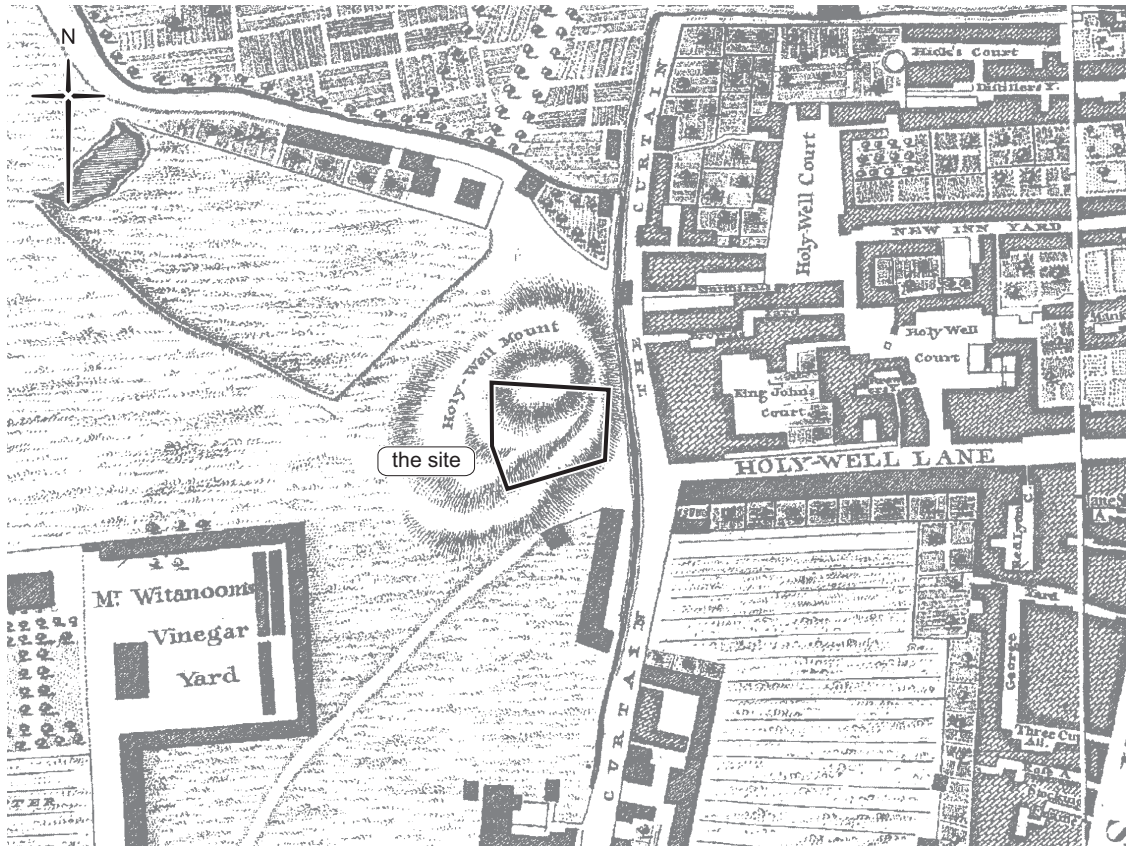


Fig 3 Rocque's map of 1746

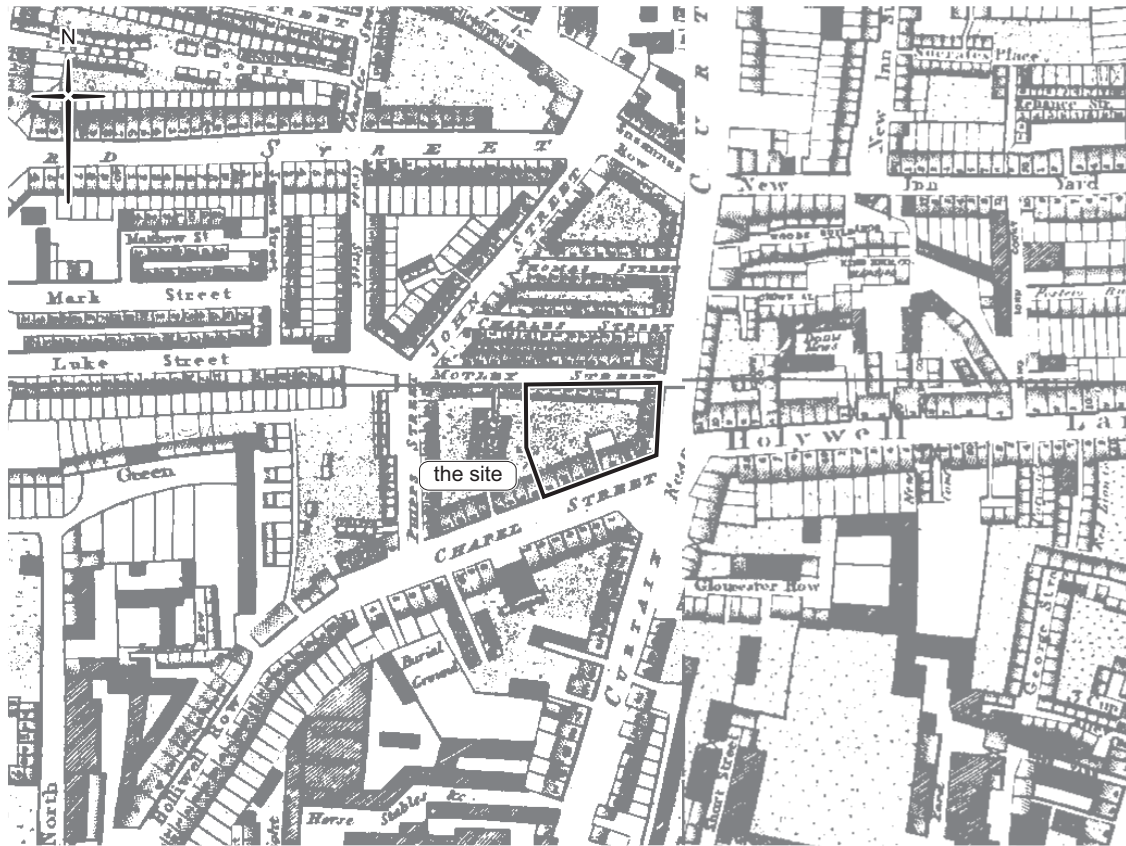


Fig 4 Horwood's map of 1799

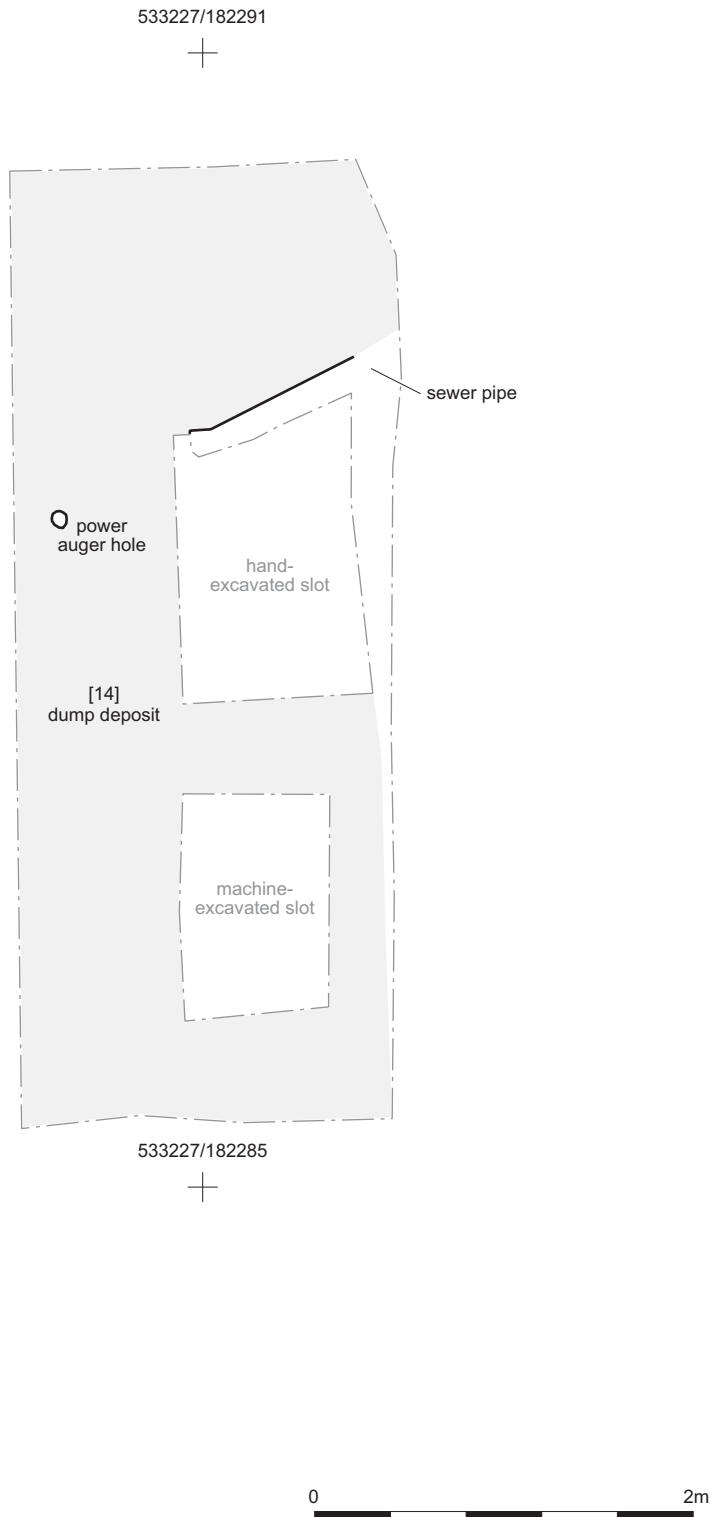


Fig 5 Plan of Trench 1 showing the dump deposits and the hand and machine excavated slots



Fig 6 Plan Trench 2 showing the 19th-century brick wall and brick floor



Fig 7 Photograph of Trench 1, looking north-west



Fig 8 Photograph of Trench 2, looking north-east

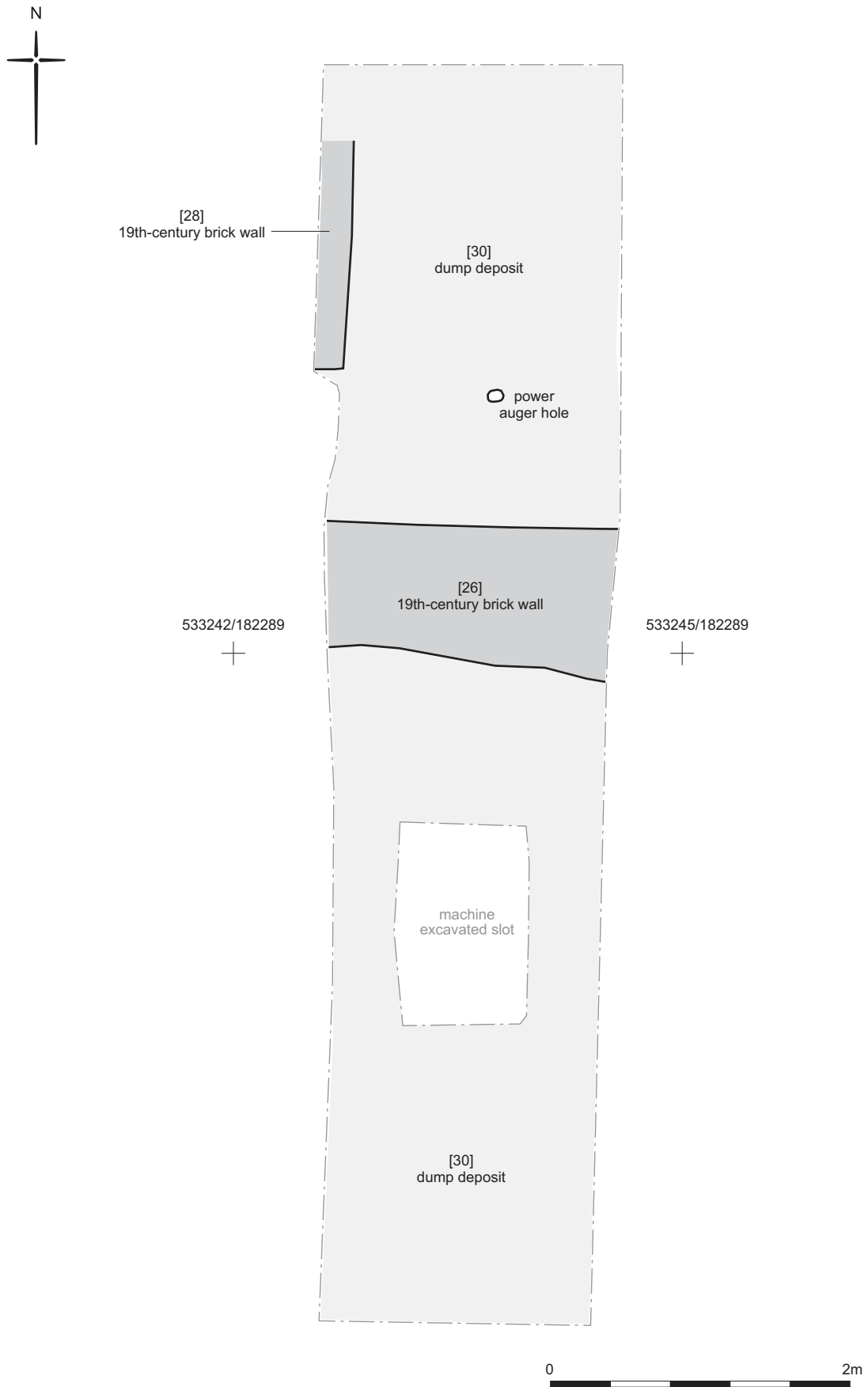


Fig 9 Plan of Trench 3 showing the dump deposits, the brick wall and machine excavated slot

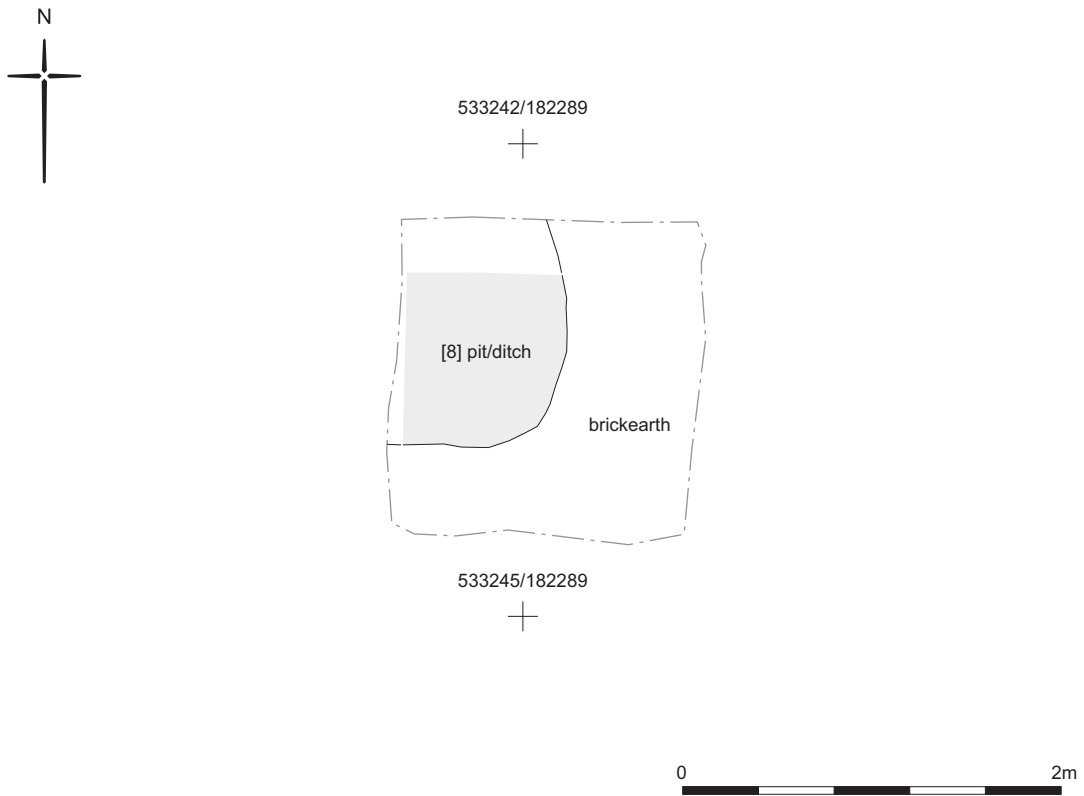


Fig 10 Plan of the cut feature in Trench 4



Fig 11 Photograph of Trench 3 showing the machine excavated slot through the dump deposits, looking south-east



Fig 12 Photograph of Trench 6 showing the dump deposits, looking north

W

E

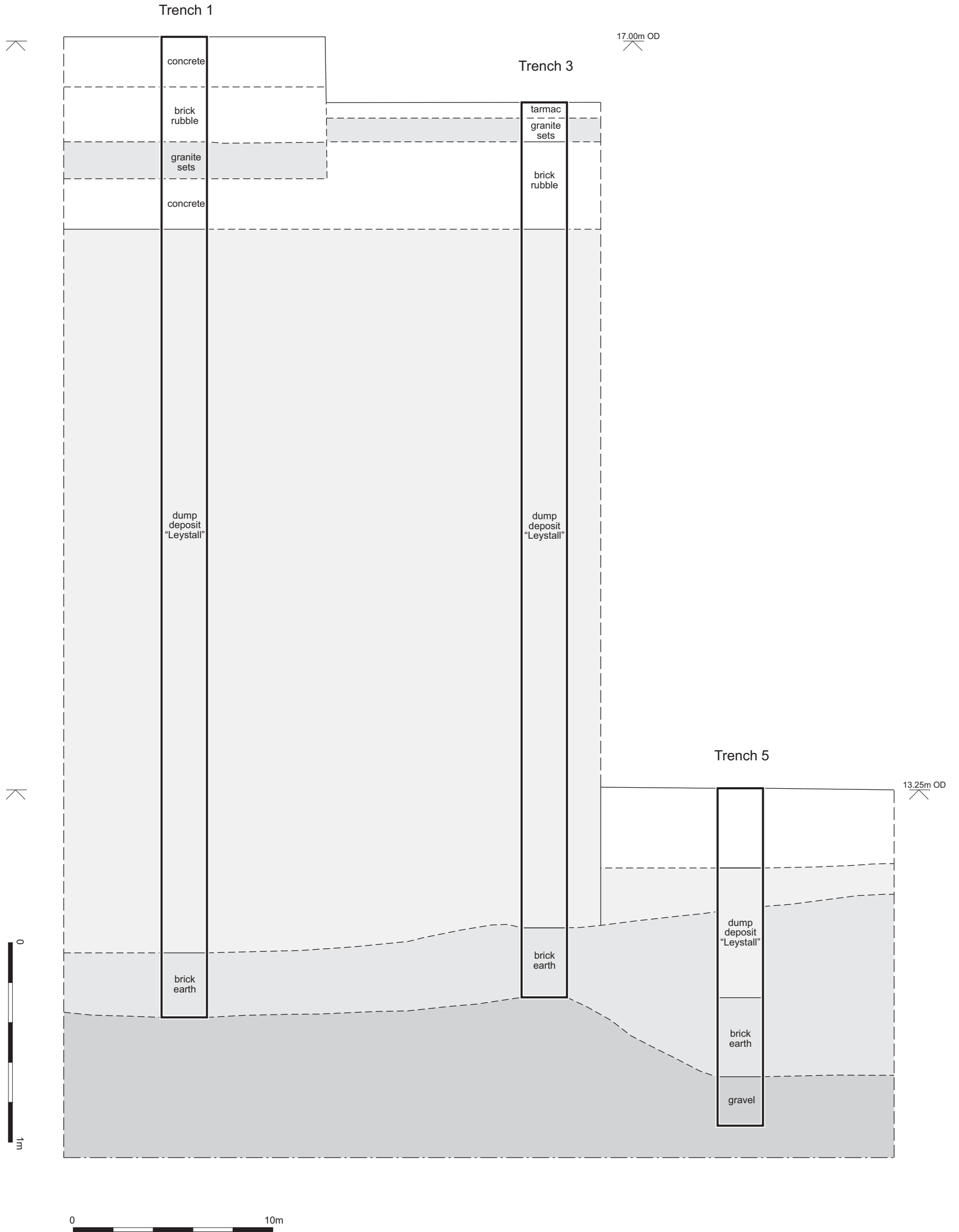


Fig 13 A composite east-west aligned section showing the survival of the archaeological deposits (1:20 scale vertical, 1:200 scale horizontal)