

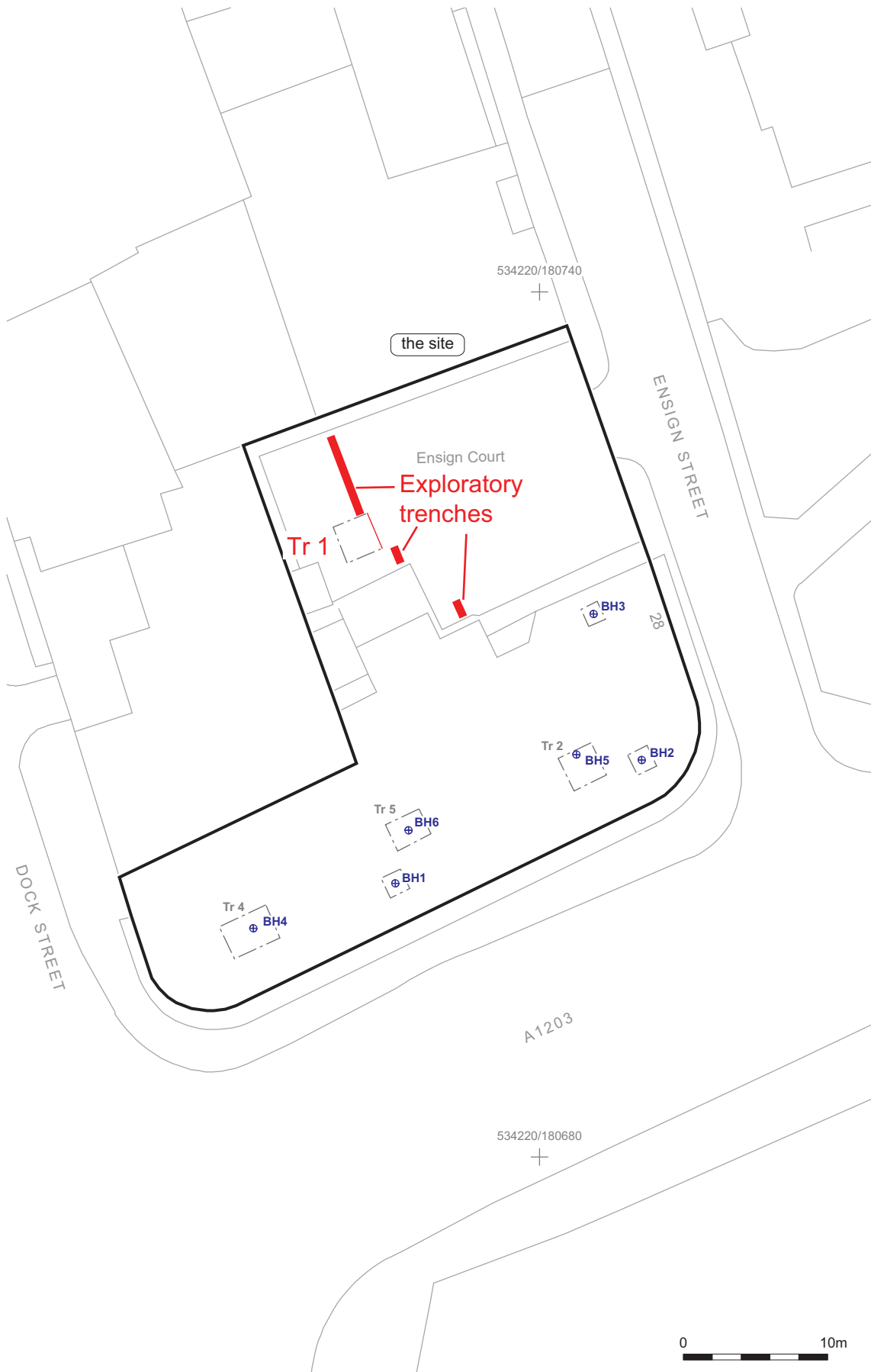
Ensign Court, 28 Ensign Street, London E1 Site code: EGN15

Summary of archaeological monitoring during site investigation works on 12.12.2016, Rob Tutt

An archaeological monitoring exercise (watching brief) took place on works to locate a live gas main known to run across the northern, former car park, part of the site.

A JCB excavator using a toothless bucket dug 3 exploratory trenches in areas, identified by ground penetrating radar, likely to contain the gas main (see location plan). The largest of these measured 0.9m wide by up to 1.1m deep by 5m long. It was located immediately to the north of evaluation trench 1 and ran north to the site edge. Present in the base of the trench was a deposit of very dark grey/black clayey silt with occasional brick and tile fragments. The building material was more frequent in the northern end. This deposit resembled a post medieval dump layer containing demolition rubble and was up to 0.45m thick. Over this was a layer of modern made ground, concrete slab and tarmac totalling 0.6m thick. The level at the top of this trench was approximately 9.75mOD making the top of the archaeological deposits 9.2mOD.

The two trenches located to the south of evaluation trench 1 were no more than 1m by 0.5m in area and only excavated to 0.6m below ground level. No archaeological deposits were encountered. The gas main was found running east - west in the southernmost trench alongside the slab of the former building.



Location of exploratory trenches excavated during watching brief on 12.12.2016



Trench containing archaeological deposit, looking southwest



Excavation of trench containing gas main, looking southwest