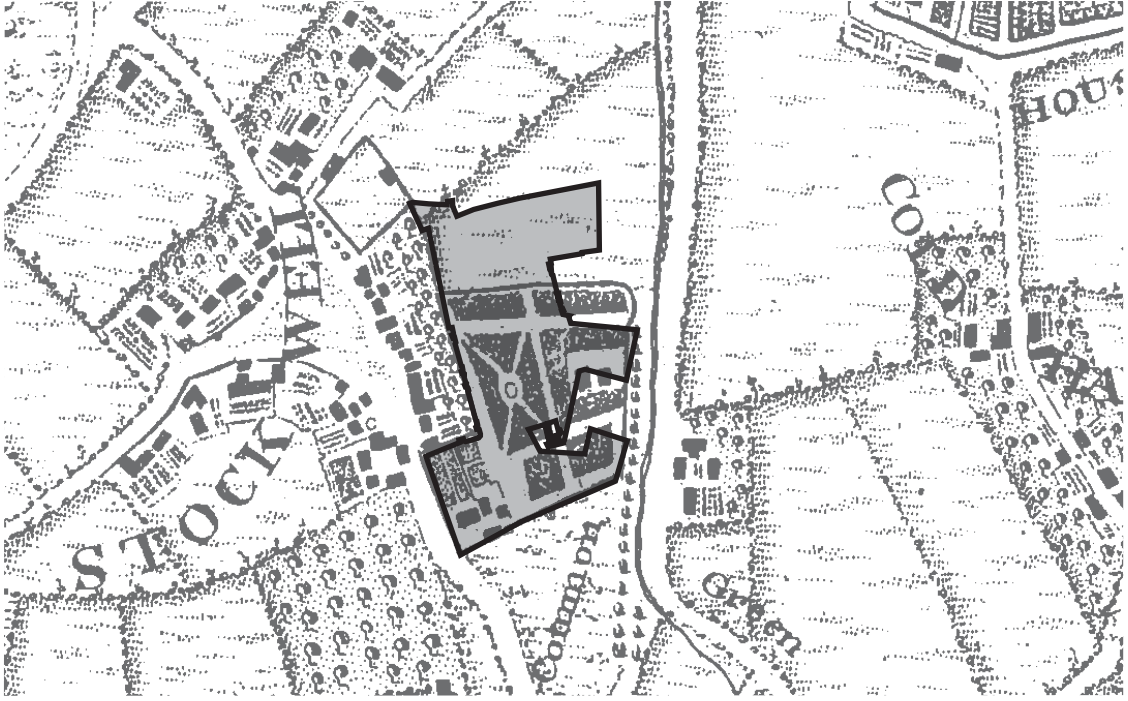

STOCKWELL PARK ROAD AND ROBSART STREET VILLAGE ESTATES
London SE10

London Borough of Lambeth

Archaeological evaluation report

November 2008

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

STOCKWELL PARK ROAD AND ROBSART STREET VILLAGE ESTATES
London SE10

London Borough of Lambeth

Archaeological evaluation report

Site Code: SKV08
National Grid Reference: 530996 117609

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Museum of London (MOL) Archaeology on the site of Stockwell Park Road and Robsart Street Village Estates, Stockwell, London SE10. The report was commissioned from MOL Archaeology by Higgins Construction.

Following the recommendations of Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) five evaluation trenches (Trenches 1-5) were proposed for the site. Four of these trenches (Trenches 1-4) were excavated during this phase of works. Trench 5 is scheduled for Phase II, at some point in the future.

The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. No archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the nineteenth century were found during the evaluation. It was established that over most of the site between 1m and 1.3m of made ground overlay natural gravel which was recorded at between 6.11 and 9.35m OD.

In the light of the revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes that the proposed redevelopment is unlikely to disturb archaeological deposits or features of any significance within the evaluated area. The report therefore recommends that no further archaeological work is necessary within this area.

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Front cover illustration: Detail from Rocque's map of 1746

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at Stockwell Park Road and Robsart Street Village Estates, Stockwell, London SE10, hereafter called 'the site' (see Fig 1).The site is bounded by Robsart Street and buildings fronting Robsart Street to the north, by Aytoun Road and Stockwell Road to the west; by Stockwell Park Walk to the south and by Thornton Street, Brixton Road and houses fronting Brixton Road to the east. The site falls within the London Borough of Lambeth. The OS National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is 530996 1176092. The site code is SVK08.

The site lies on a relatively gentle slope down to the north and east. Street level lies at 11.5m Ordnance Datum (OD) at the junction of Stockwell Road and Stockwell Park walk in the south-west corner of the site. Along the western boundary of the site it drops to 8.7m OD at the junction of Stockwell Road and Sidney Road. Street level lies at 9.6m OD at the junction of Stockwell Park Walk and Brixton Road in the south east corner of the site and drops to 6.9m OD at the junction of Brixton Road and Thornton Street in the north east corner of the site.

An Archaeological *desk-based assessment* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (MoLAS, 2008). The assessment document should be referred to for further information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of the archaeological potential of the site.

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

1.2.1 National planning policy guidance

Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) sets out the Secretary of State's policy on archaeological remains and provides recommendations subsequently integrated into local development plans. The key points in PPG16 can be summarised as follows:

> *Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite and non-renewable resource, and in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. Appropriate management is therefore essential to ensure that they survive in good condition. In particular, care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed. They can contain irreplaceable information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. They are part of our sense of national identity and are valuable both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and tourism.*
>
> *Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by a proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation.*
>
> *If physical preservation in situ is not feasible, an archaeological excavation for the purposes of 'preservation by record' may be an acceptable alternative. From an archaeological point of view, this should be regarded as a second-best option. Agreements should also provide for the subsequent publication of the results of any excavation programme.*
>
> *The key to informed and reasonable planning decisions is for consideration to be given early, before formal planning applications are made, to the question of whether archaeological remains are known to exist on a site where development is planned and the implications for the development proposal.*
>
> *Planning authorities, when they propose to allow development which is damaging to archaeological remains, must ensure that the developer has satisfactorily provided for excavation and recording, either through voluntary agreement with the archaeologists or, in the absence of agreement, by imposing an appropriate condition on the planning permission.*

1.2.2 Regional guidance: The London Plan

The over–arching strategies and policies for the whole of the Greater London area are contained within the GLAAS London Plan (Feb 2008) which includes statements relating to archaeology:

> ***Policy 4B.15 Archaeology***
>
> *The Mayor, in partnership with English Heritage, the Museum of London and boroughs, will support the identification, protection, interpretation and presentation of London's archaeological resources. Boroughs in consultation with English Heritage and*

other relevant statutory organisations should include appropriate policies in their DPDs for protecting scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological assets within their area.

1.2.3 Planning Policy Guidance (PPG16)

The London Borough of Lambeth's *Unitary Development Plan* (UDP) was adopted in 2007. The adopted plan will form part of the development plan for the area of the London Borough of Lambeth. The Local Development Framework (LDF), which will eventually replace the UDP, is presently undergoing consultation. The development plan forms the basis for decisions on land use planning affecting that area. The document sets out the local authority's policies in relation to archaeology. The policy adheres to the principles of national planning guidance PPG16 (see above). The relevant policy in relation to archaeology is set out below:

Policy 48 Archaeology: Recording and Analysis of Buildings

(a) Archaeology - Where development proposals may affect the archaeological heritage, applicants should properly assess and plan for the archaeological implications, in accordance with national policy. This may involve desk-based assessment and/or preliminary archaeological site evaluations before proposals are determined. Within Archaeological Priority Areas (as shown on the Proposals Map) the Council and English Heritage will advise where planning applications should be accompanied by a desk-based archaeological assessment. This should be commissioned by the applicants from a professionally qualified archaeological organisation or archaeological consultant.

Suitable design, land use and management should be adopted to safeguard archaeological sites.

The most important archaeological remains and their settings should be permanently preserved in situ, with public access and display where possible.

In the case of sites of archaeological significance or potential, where permanent preservation in situ is not justified, provision shall be made by the developer for an appropriate level of archaeological investigation and recording, which should be undertaken by a recognised archaeological organisation before development begins, in accordance with a project design approved by the Council. Such provision shall also include the subsequent publication of the results of the excavation.

(b) Recording and analysis of buildings - In schemes involving substantial alteration or refurbishment of a listed building or other important historical building, the Council may require a historical and architectural recording, analysis and assessment to be prepared and agreed by the Council, prior to the approval of the detailed scheme, in order to inform and guide the building intervention.

(c) Industrial Heritage - The Council will promote the evaluation, conservation and interpretation of the Borough's industrial heritage.

The Council will liaise with the Greater London Industrial Archaeological Society (GLIAS) to maintain and develop a schedule

of sites of industrial heritage significance to which this policy applies.

The criteria for considering potential additions to the schedule will include importance of local industrial heritage, contribution to visual or historic industrial character, and industrial architectural or industrial archaeological value.

Development proposals affecting industrial heritage sites will be expected to:

• Ensure or enable the evaluation of the industrial heritage value of the site is carried out prior to any development, in particular prior to construction or demolition.

• Re-use where possible any existing buildings contributing to industrial heritage.

• Preserve part or all of any industrial remains of heritage interest within new development schemes with provision of interpretative facilities where possible.

• Provide adequate interpretative facilities, such as a panel, within the new development.

Structures of industrial architectural or historic interest should be considered for addition to the schedules of ancient monuments, listed buildings or buildings of local list as appropriate.

4.16.19. Archaeological remains constitute the principal surviving evidence of the Borough's past but are a finite and fragile resource that is vulnerable to modern development and land use. Once removed, that part of the Borough's past is lost forever. The Council considers that the archaeology of the Borough is a community asset as an educational, recreational and tourist resource: its preservation is a legitimate objective, against which the needs of development must be balanced and assessed. The destruction of such remains should be avoided wherever possible and should never take place without prior archaeological assessment, excavation and record.

4.16.20. The Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service has identified 17 Archaeological Priority Areas as shown on the Proposals Map. New development within these areas must pay particular attention to this policy. It should be noted that the priority areas represent current knowledge and are not a definitive statement of the extent of the Borough's archaeological resource. The Council will require similar information and safeguards for development proposals outside the designated areas where there are reasonable grounds to believe that archaeological remains may be threatened by the scale or location of new development. New Archaeological Priority Areas may be designated as more information comes to light.

4.16.20a. PPG 15 states that some historic buildings are of intrinsic archaeological interest. This is applicable whether or not a building is afforded statutory protection. It is important that the significance of structures and the impact of proposed alterations be assessed prior to determination of the application. This will enable informed decisions to be reached and where permission is granted, an

> *appropriate level of mitigation to be implemented. The Council will consider, in all cases of alteration or demolition, whether a condition should be applied to consent to enable the recording of features that would be destroyed in the course of the works. A qualified contractor, in accordance with a project design approved by the Council should undertake all recording and analysis.*

The eastern extent of the site lies within one of 17 Archaeological Priority Areas as defined by the London Borough of Lambeth. This Archaeological Priority Area covers the line of the Roman and medieval routes into London and Southwark. The western boundary of the site lies adjacent to an Archaeological Priority Area which defines the approximate area of the medieval village and Manor House of Stockwell.

1.3 Planning background

The development proposal comprises the demolition of Redmayne, Cumnor and Lidcote, half of Wayland, Thrayle and Albermarle buildings and Dudley Garages and the construction of new residential buildings as well as refurbishment of existing buildings and improvements to services. Further to the development proposal the local planning authority, on the advice of its designated advisor GLAAS, placed a condition on the planning consent requiring a programme of archaeological work, beginning with an initial archaeological evaluation of the site, to be carried out prior to any development taking place.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Higgins Construction and produced by the Museum of London's Archaeology Service (MOL Archaeology). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- 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

1.5 Aims and objectives

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

The following research aims and objectives were established in the Method *Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2): What is the nature and level of natural topography?

- Does any evidence for prehistoric occupation survive on the site?

- Does any evidence for Roman occupation survive on the site?
- Does any evidence for medieval occupation survive on the site?
- Does any evidence for post-medieval occupation survive on the site?
- Are any remains present, in the southern part of the site that can be related to the 16th century Stockwell Park Manor?

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

The site lies on a relatively gentle slope down to the north and east with street level at 11.5m OD in the southwest corner of the site (Stockwell Road/Stockwell Park Walk) and 6.9m OD to the northeast (Thornton Street/Robsart Street). To the southeast of the site street level is at 9.6m OD (Stockwell Park Walk/Brixton Road)

The Thames River is *c* 5km to the northwest of the site with the River Wandle *c* 5km to the west. Rocque's map of 1746 shows a watercourse known as 'The Shore' running north south adjacent to the eastern side of the site.

The site overlies Taplow and Kempton Park gravels which in places are capped by a natural brickearth (Langley Silt) which was laid down by natural processes after the last glacial period.

A geotechnical survey carried out by RSA Geotechnics in 2008 identified natural gravel to the north of the site at between 7m and 7.5m OD.

2.2 Prehistoric

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity close to the development site. This does not preclude the probability of prehistoric activity in the area as much of the prehistioric landscape is likely to have been removed by either natural processes such as erosion or man made intervention such as gravel extraction. Consequently evidence of human activity for this period tends to be characterised by individual spot finds, such as a flint blade of Mesolithic (*c* 10,000-4,000 BC) or later date found during an evaluation at 328 Brixton Road (BXT02) *c* 90m to the east of the site. The area around Southwark and Lambeth during the Neolithic (*c* 4000-2000 BC), Bronze Age (*c* 2,000-600 BC) and Iron Age (*c* 600 BC- AD 43) periods was an 'ever changing mosaic of closed and open woodland, temporarily cultivated land, grazing land and meadows interrupted by tributary rivers and streams small ponds and lakes' (Branch and Green 2004). However no sites or finds from this period have been located close to the development site.

2.3 Roman

The arrival of the Romans in AD43 brought about a distinct change in settlement pattern in the London area and within approximately a decade a town was established on the north bank of the Thames *c* 4.5 km to the north of the development site.

The Roman arterial route known as the London to Portslade Way is thought to run adjacent to the eastern side of the site along the line of the modern Brixton Road. Previous excavations in the area however have failed to locate any evidence of this feature.

Another arterial route, Stane Street ran *c* 550m to the west of the site. Archaeological investigations in the area have so far failed to find any clear evidence for this feature or for Roman habitation, although several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from a site *c* 100m to the east of the development site at 328 Brixton Road (BXT02).

The Romans commonly buried their dead outside of the main settlement along approach roads to the city. Roman burials might be anticipated in the area, however no such burials have been found close to this site.

2.4 Saxon

There is no archaeological evidence for Saxon activity in the locality of the site. It is thought a *burh* (defended settlement) was established *c* 4km to the north of the site in the late 9th or early 10th century as Southwark is thought to be synonymous with a defensive strongpoint listed in a late Saxon source, the Burghal Hideage.

The site was probably part of the manor estate of 'South Lamberth' the principle dwelling of which lay c 3km to the northwest of the site.

2.5 Medieval

At the end of the 13th century the manor of 'South Lamberth' passed to the King who divided it into two manors Vauxhall and Stockwell. The manorial estate for Stockwell included most of the western side of current Brixton with the eastern boundary running down Stockwell Park Road, Brixton Road and Brixton Hill. The western boundary of the manor was *c* 700m to the west of the site and ran south from Clapham Road along Bedford Road (Piper 1996).

Cartographic evidence shows that the settlement of Stockwell lay to the west of the site in the triangle formed by Stockwell Green and Stockwell Road. The area of the development site itself is likely to have been open fields during this period.

Around 1450 John Copeland, a servant of the Earl of Warwick, came to England to claim rights to the manor of Stockwell (VCH *Surrey iv* 1912). The manor house stood to the west of the site in four acres on the north east side of the present Stockwell Road south of Sidney Road, its existence is commemorated by Moat Place nearby (Piper 1996).

2.6 Post-medieval

Ownership of the manor changed hands several times during the 15th and 16th centuries. In the late 16th Century Lord Montague sold the old manor house and built a new one in an area within the south west corner of the present site. Rocque's map of 1746 shows the northern part of the site as open pasture whilst the southern half of the site is within the grounds and gardens of the late 16th century Stockwell Park Manor. The Manor House and two associated buildings are shown in the south west corner of the site. An extensive formal garden attached to the manor is depicted as covering almost half of the site area. Rocque's map also shows a row of houses adjacent to the west of the site along what would become Stockwell Road.

Large scale suburban development of the site did not take place until the 19th century. Cartographic evidence shows initial development at the north end of the site by the mid 19th century extending south along the centre of the site by the time of Stanford's map of 1862. The Ordnance Survey map of 1894–1896 shows the whole of the site occupied by a suburban Street plan, with terraced housing to the southwest where the rebuilt Manor house had been demolished by 1880.

The area suffered bomb damage during the Second World War and there were major changes to the site from the 1950's onwards. The present Street plan was in place by the Ordnance Survey map of 1975-1980.

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (MOL Archaeology, 2008), and the MoL *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoL 1994).

Five evaluation trenches were proposed for the site of which four of these (Trenches 1-4) were able to be excavated during the current phase of works.

For each trench the ground was broken out and excavated by contractors using a JCB under MOL Archaeology supervision. The trenches were then hand cleaned and any archaeological features excavated by MOL Archaeology staff.

The locations of all evaluation trenches were recorded by MOL Archaeology offsetting from adjacent standing walls and features at a scale of either 1:100 or 1:250. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid by the MOL Archaeology geomatics team.

For Trenches 1 and 2 levels were calculated by means of traverse from an Ordnance Survey datum, with a value of 8.45m OD, on St Michaels Church, Stockwell Park Road. Levels for Trenches 3 and 4 were calculated by reference to spot heights on site plans provided by Higgins Construction.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits and features encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoL 1994).

The site has produced: four trench location plans; 35 context records; 4 section drawings at 1:20, 4 Trench plans at 1:20 and 1:50.; and black and white and colour photographs.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code SKV08 in the MOL archive.

4 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see Fig 2

Evaluation Trench 1	
Location	South of Robsart Street Northwest end of site
Dimensions	8m x 2m by 1.3m depth
Modern ground level	7.82-7.99m OD
Base of modern deposits	7.15-7.45m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.4-0.74m deep
Level of base of deposits observed	6.72-6.77m ODm OD
Natural observed	Gravel 6.72- 7.45m OD Brickearth 7.59m OD

Trench 1 was located in a small patch of open ground, laid to grass fronting onto Robsart Street. Prior to excavation CAT scan signals indicated the presence of live services at the western end of the trench limiting its area to 8m x 2m.

Compacted natural orange gravel [25] was located in the base of the trench at 0.54-1.1m below the current ground level. In the centre of the trench this was overlain by pale yellow brown brickearth subsoil [22] of up to 0.2m depth. At the eastern end of the trench natural gravel was overlain by 0.7m thickness of dumped deposits [21] containing small mortar fragments. This deposit was truncated to the west by a small pit or intrusion [24] of 1.7m diameter. This feature was backfilled with mid grey brown sandy silt [23] containing 19th century brick fragments as well as pieces of mortar and sherds of Victorian pottery (not retained). The feature was overlain by modern made ground [20], which was between 0.3m and 0.9m deep throughout the trench. This was in turn sealed by 0.1m depth of modern topsoil.

Evaluation Trench 2	
Location	Adjacent Robsart Street/Thornton street at Northeast end of site
Dimensions	10m by 2m by 1m-1.5m depth
Modern ground level	7.21m OD
Base of modern deposits	5.61-6.81m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.6-1.3mm deep
Level of base of deposits observed	5.43-6.11m OD
Natural observed	Gravel 5.43-6.25m OD

Trench 2 was located at the northeastern end of the site just to the southwest of the site boundary on the junction of Robsart Street and Thornton Street.

Excavation of the trench revealed that the upper horizon of compacted natural gravel [4] was located throughout the trench at 0.9-1.2m below the current ground level.

A small pit [2] was located on the south side of the trench, which measured 1.8m long by 0.4m wide and was 0.46m deep. This pit was backfilled with dark grey brown sandy silt containing fragments of 19th century pottery, animal bone and a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe (not retained).

The pit was sealed by 0.6m depth of made ground [10] comprising a mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions. This was in turn sealed by a further 0.5m depth of well compacted sandy silt [5] and [14] mixed with gravel and small fragments of brick. At the eastern end of the trench [14] was sealed by a make up layer of crushed brick [15] of 0.1m thickness.

Deposit [15] pre-dated three north south orientated brick walls located in the trench. Wall [11] towards the centre of the trench measured 0.45m wide and survived to a depth of 0.19m being truncated at 6.91m OD. This wall was constructed of yellow bricks of 75mm thickness and was aligned north south. Immediately to the east of [11] wall [12] was 1m wide and survived to a depth of 0.33m. This was constructed of purple red and yellow bricks of 70mm thickness and was truncated at 7.01m OD. This feature was interpreted as the base of a footing probably pre-dating [11]. Towards the western end of the trench another north south aligned wall [13] was located. This was of similar construction to [12] being constructed of purple red and yellow bricks of 70mm thickness. The wall survived to a height of 0.39m and was 0.55m wide. The truncated top of the wall was located at 7.15m OD. These walls were all interpreted as the remains of 19th century or later construction.

Walls [11], [12] and [13] were sealed by demolition deposits [3] and [18] to a depth of 0.3-0.4m. At the eastern end of the trench [18] was truncated by a north south orientated cut [9] backfilled with modern material [8]. This feature was 0.7m wide and over 1m deep with concrete at the base at 5.61m OD. The western end of the trench was truncated by a live modern utility pipe in a construction cut [7]. This service had to be left in place restricting excavation at this end of the trench.

Up to 0.2m depth of topsoil was recorded in the top of the trench.

Evaluation Trench 3	
Location	Southwest end of site adjacent Stockwell Road
Dimensions	15m by 4m-6m by depth
Modern ground level	10.34-10.44m OD
Base of modern deposits	8.81-9.35m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.4-0.8m deep
Level of base of deposits observed	8.81-9.35m OD
Natural observed	Gravel 9.20-9.45m OD

Trench 3 was located on a patch of open ground towards the south-western corner of the site, close to the junction of Stockwell Road and Stockwell Park Walk. Previous geotechnical investigations in the area had indicated that up to 3.2m depth of made ground could be present in this area of the site. With this in mind the trench was initially laid out at 6m wide by 20m long in order to allow for stepped excavation to a depth of 3m. It soon became apparent the depth of made ground was much less than expected and the trench was eventually excavated as 15m long by between 4m and 6m wide.

Compacted natural orange gravel [32] was recorded in the eastern end of the trench at a truncated horizon 1m–1.24m below existing ground level. There was no survival of any overlying brickearth subsoil.

On the north-eastern side of the trench the gravel was truncated by two pits [28] and [30]. Pit [28] was 2.3m long x 1.1m wide and was only partially visible within the trench. The pit was filled with backfilled deposits of dark grey brown sandy silt [27] containing fragments of 19th century brick and some pottery of 19th century or later date. The top of the pit was located at 9.30m OD. Pit [30] was located approximately 1m to the west of [28]. This pit measured 1m long x 0.7m wide and was backfilled with deposits of mid grey brown sandy silt [29] containing fragments of 19th century brick and mortar.

At the westen end of the trench natural gravel had been removed to 9.20m OD and backfilled with 0.5-0.6m depth of modern rough concrete mixed with demolition materials [35]. This was sealed by 0.5-0.7m depth of modern made ground [31], consisting of mid grey brown sandy silt containing building materials and modern debris. This deposit deepened towards the southeast corner of the trench. Deposit [31] was in turn sealed by a further 0.6m depth of loose dark grey brown sandy silt [26] containing modern materials. Above this was 0.1m depth of topsoil and grass.

Evaluation Trench 4	
Location	To south of centre of site
Dimensions	10m by 2m by 1m deep

Modern ground level	9.92m OD
Base of modern deposits	9.32m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.4m deep
Level of base of deposits observed	8.92m OD
Natural observed	Gravel 9.12m OD

Trench 4 was marked out as 10m long x 2m wide, but only the eastern end of the trench (an area approximately 2m x 3m) was able to be fully excavated.

Compacted natural orange gravel [34] was located at an upper horizon 0.8m below the existing ground level. This was sealed by 0.2m depth of subsoil [33] consisting of compacted silty sand and gravel containing small fragments of post-medieval brick. This was in turn sealed by 0.6m depth of topsoil and modern made ground.

Excavation of the trench was curtailed by the presence of live services within ducts running on a northwest southeast orientation across the trench approximately 0.3m below the current ground level. Following location of these services and further CAT scan signals to the west of the trench the complete excavation of the trench was abandoned on health and safety grounds.

4.1 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation 'in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy'. In the case of this site five evaluation trenches were originally proposed of which four (Trenches 1–4) were able to be excavated during this phase of works. Two of these trenches (Trenches 2 and 3) were able to be fully excavated, one was able to be almost fully excavated (Trench 1) and one was only able to be partially excavated (Trench 4). Trench 4 was located towards the south-eastern corner of the site. Excavation of Trench 5 at a later stage of the development will be able to further assess the extent of survival in this area of the site.

Whilst the evaluation area represented a small percentage of the area under development it was successful in establishing the level of natural topography and providing a good representative indication of the likely extent and nature of archaeological survival on the site.

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Realisation of original research aims

- What is the nature and level of natural topography?

Natural gravel was located in all four evaluation trenches. In Trench 1 to the northwest of the site this gravel was recorded at an upper horizon of 7.45m OD. Towards the northeast corner of the site (Trench 2) this gravel was established at an upper horizon of 6.11m OD. This reflects the general slope of the local topography from west to east. In the southwest of the site (Trench 3) gravel was recorded at an upper horizon of 9.45m OD and at a slightly lower level of 9.12m OD (Trench 4) to the east. This confirmed the slope of the topography from north to south on the site and the presence of a gentler west-east slope at the south end of the site than to the north. Some very limited survival of natural brickearth subsoil was located in Trench 1 at 7.59m OD.

- Does any evidence for prehistoric occupation survive on the site?

There was no evidence for the survival of prehistoric deposits or features on the site.

- Does any evidence for Roman occupation survive on the site?

No evidence for Roman occupation for Roman occupation was found on the site.

- Does any evidence for medieval occupation survive on the site?

No evidence fro medieval occupation was found on the site.

- Does any evidence for post-medieval occupation survive on the site?

A small amount of pottery and clay tobacco pipe fragments were identified on site as 17th or 18th century in origin. All of this evidence however was residual within later contexts.

No deposits or features were identified as pre-dating the 19th century. To the northeast of the site in Trench 2 three walls were recorded which dated to the 19th century. In the same trench a single pit and make up deposits were found which may just predate the first construction of suburban housing during the mid 19th century. An isolated pit was identified in Trench 1, to the northwest of the site, which may date from the same period. In the southwest corner of the site two small pits were identified which could only be identified as not earlier than 19th century in origin. Suburban development of this part of the site dates to the very late 19th century so it is possible these features may pre-date the construction of terraced housing. Other

than this most of the made ground on the site post-dated demolition of 19th century housing.

- Are any remains present, in the southern part of the site that can be related to the 16th century Stockwell Park Manor?

No archaeological features were found that could be related to the 16th century Manor. Neither was any residual artefactual evidence from this period located in any of the trenches.

5.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has demonstrated that no Prehistoric Roman or medieval deposits are likely to survive on the site. Natural levels are approximately 1m-1.3m below current ground levels which suggests that any evidence from these periods is likely to have been destroyed during later suburban development. There is some potential for survival of residual artefactual evidence from the earlier post-medieval period within later contexts, but any surviving deposits, features or structures on the site are likely to be much truncated and to date from the 19th century onwards.

5.3 Significance

No archaeological deposits of local, regional or national importance were observed during the evaluation. The 19th century development of the site area is well documented and although some evidence from this period was recorded it was very fragmentary and unlikely to add significantly to our understanding of the area.

6 Assessment by EH criteria

The recommendations of the GLAAS 1998 guidelines on *Evaluation reports* suggest that there should be:

'Assessment of results against original expectations (using criteria for assessing national importance of period, relative completeness, condition, rarity and group value) .....' (Guidance Paper V, 4 7)

A set of guidelines was published by the Department of the Environment with criteria by which to measure the importance of individual monuments for possible Scheduling. These criteria are as follows: *Period*; *Rarity*; *Documentation*; *Survival/Condition*; *Fragility/Vulnerability*; *Diversity*; and *Potential*. The guidelines stress that 'these criteria should not...be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case'.[1]

In the following passages the potential archaeological survival described in the initial Assessment document and Section 4 above will be assessed against these criteria.

Criterion 1: period

Archaeological survival was restricted to the late post-medieval period from the 19th century onwards.

Criterion 2: rarity

There is nothing to suggest that any of the surviving deposits or features are likely to be rare either in a national or regional context.

Criterion 3: documentation

There are no surviving documentary records for the area from the Roman period. Whilst there may be considerable contemporary documentation for the later medieval period from *c* 1300 onwards no features were located which pre-dated the 19th century. There is a plethora of cartographic evidence for 19th buildings on the site, but none of the features identified can be directly related to any of this evidence.

Criterion 4: group value

None of the likely archaeological deposits are associated with contemporary single Monuments external to the site.

Criterion 5: survival/condition

There was no survival of archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the 19th century. Some evidence for 19th century buildings was located towards the north eastern extent of the site, but this was much truncated. Some evidence for 19th century pitting was also located. Artefactual material from these features was small in quantity fragmentary and in poor condition.

[1] Annex 4, DOE, Planning and Policy Guidance 16, (1990). For detailed definition of the criteria see that document. Reference has also been made to Darvill, Saunders & Startin, (1987); and McGill, (1995)

Criterion 6: fragility

There was no evidence that archaeological deposits and features of significance remained on the site. None of the features or artefacts located on the site merited specific measures for conservation or preservation in-situ.

Criterion 7: diversity

There was very little diversity to the deposits and features located on the site which were all relatively modern.

Criterion 8: potential

The site showed no potential for the location of archaeological deposits and features of local, regional or national interest. Evidence from the 19th century onwards was very fragmentary and unlikely to add much to our previous knowledge of the site. Evidence from earlier periods is likely to be restricted to the survival of a small amount of artefactual material from the post-medieval period pre-dating the 19th century, located within later deposits this is unlikely to be of any great interest.

7 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at Stockwell Park Road and Robsart Street Village Estates, Stockwell involves the phased demolition of Redmayne, Cumnor and Lidcote, half of Wayland and Dudley Garages to the north of the site and Thrayle and Abermarle Houses to the south. The development involves construction of six new blocks of flats. These new blocks will have piled foundations with strip pile caps. In addition a new heating system is to be installed which involves the construction of an underground pipe to a depth of *c.*1.5m.

The evaluation results suggest that 1m-1.3m of made ground and 19th century deposits overlie natural gravel across most of the site. In addition some truncated remains of 19th century walls and pitting survive both to the north and south of the site. Piled foundations, service trenches and construction of piling mats are likely to destroy most or all of these deposits within localised areas of the site.

No evidence was found during the evaluation for the survival of features and deposits pre-dating the 19th century. MoL Archaeology considers that surviving deposits on the site are likely to be of very limited archaeological significance and no further archaeological work on the site in the areas covered by Trenches 1–4 is recommended.

It was not possible to excavate Trench 5 during this phase of work. Excavation of this Trench should confirm the extent of archaeological survival in the south-eastern corner of the site.

The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed within the evaluation rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological adviser.

8 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Higgins Construction for commissioning the work, Stewart Hoad MOL Archaeology Project Management, Mark Burch MOL Archaeology Geomatics.

9 Bibliography

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10 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-51056

Project details

Project name	Stockwell Park Road and Robsart Street Village Estates, Stockwell, London SE10
Short description of the project	The development comprises the demolition of some existing blocks of flats to be replaced by new ones as well as updating of existing services. On the advice of GLAAS 5 evaluation trenches were scheduled as a condition of planning consent. Four trenches were able to be excavated in this phase of works, principally to see if any remains related to the 16th century Stockwell Park Manor survived on site. No deposits or features pre-dating the 19th century were located during the evaluation. Over most of the site 1-1.3m of made ground exists over natural gravel, this was located at between .25m-7.45m (North) and 9.12m-9.45m OD (South).
Project dates	Start: 20-10-2008 End: 31-10-2008
Future work	Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SKV08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Site status (other)	Partly within AAI
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	DEPOSIT Modern made ground
Significant Finds	None
Methods &	'Targeted Trenches'

techniques	
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LAMBETH LAMBETH Stockwell Park Road Village And Robsart Street Village Estates, Stockwell, London SE10
Postcode	London SE10
Study area	10.00 Kilometres
Site coordinates	TQ 30996 76092 51.4681112083 -0.113853664841 51 28 05 N 000 06 49 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Natural Gravel Min: 6.25m Max: 9.45m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOL Archaeology
Project brief originator	MoLAS project manager
Project design originator	MOL Archaeology
Project director/manager	Stewart Hoad
Project supervisor	Andrew Daykin

Type of sponsor/funding body	Higgins Construction

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	'Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Stockwell Park Road and Robsart Street Village Estates, Stockwell, London SE10, A Report on the Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Daykin A
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	MOL Archaeology

Place of issue or publication	MOL Archaeology
Description	Standard MOL Archaeology Evaluation Report
Entered by	A Daykin (adaykin@molas.org.uk)
Entered on	7 November 2008

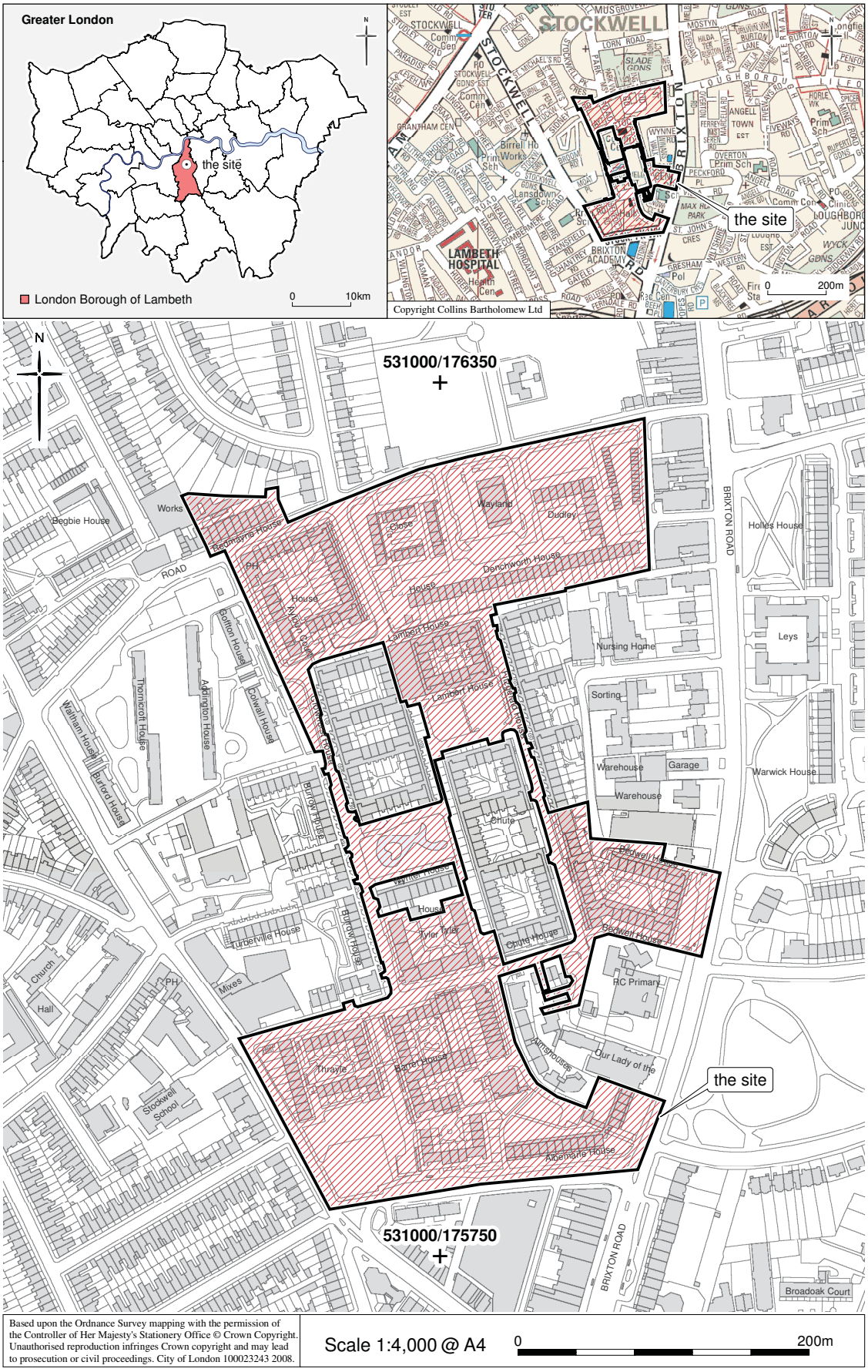

Fig 1 Location map

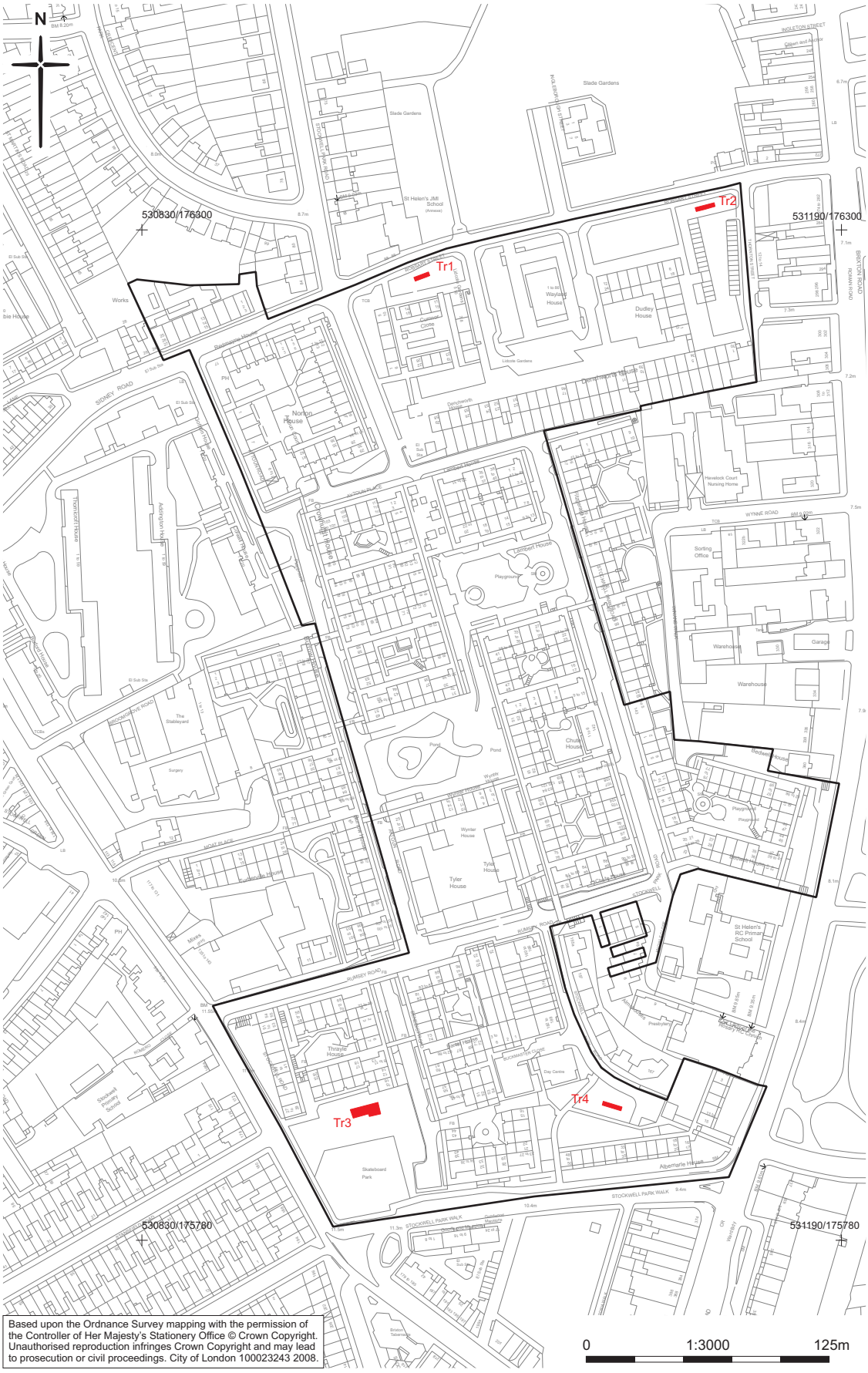

Fig 2 Trench locations

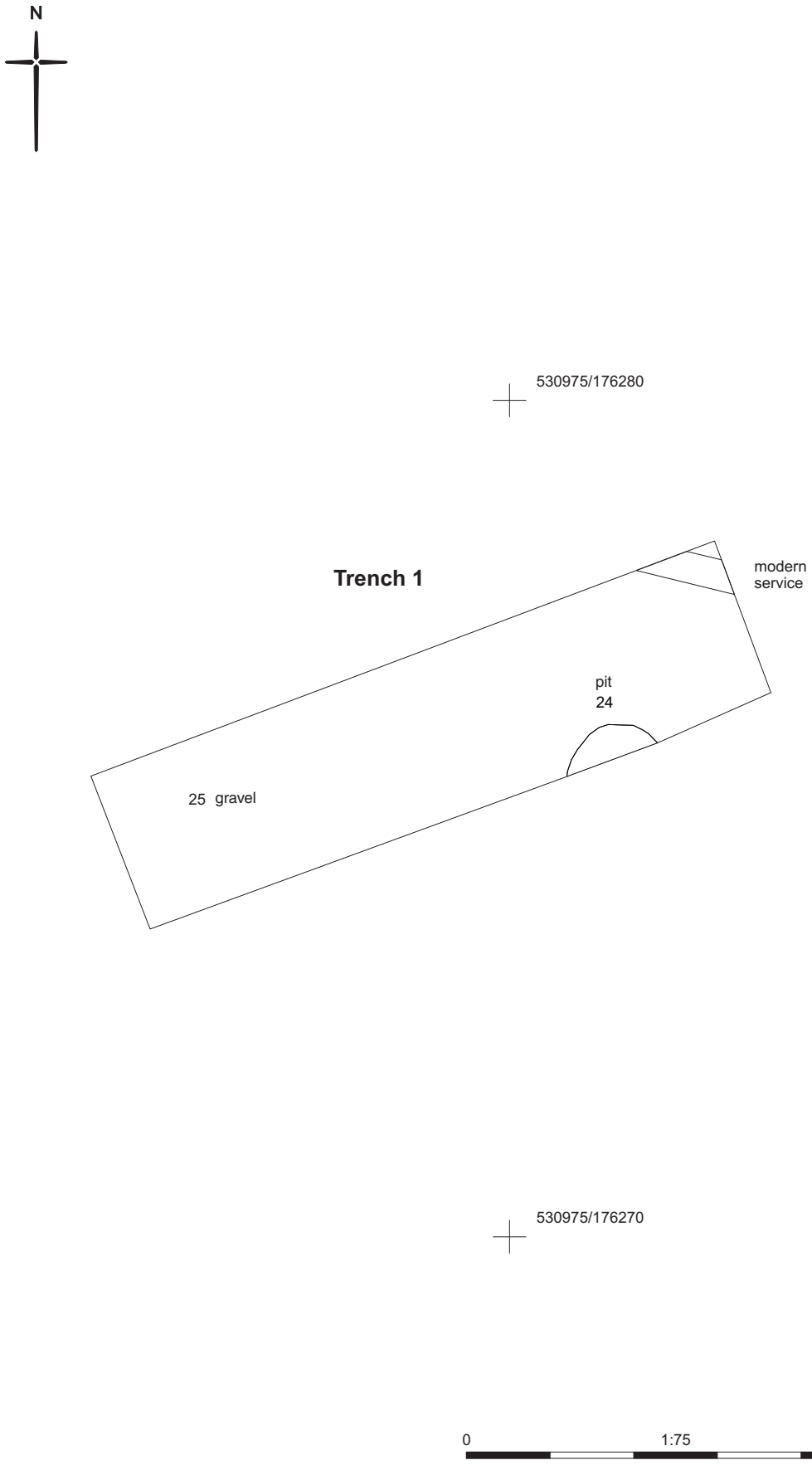

Fig 3 Trench 1

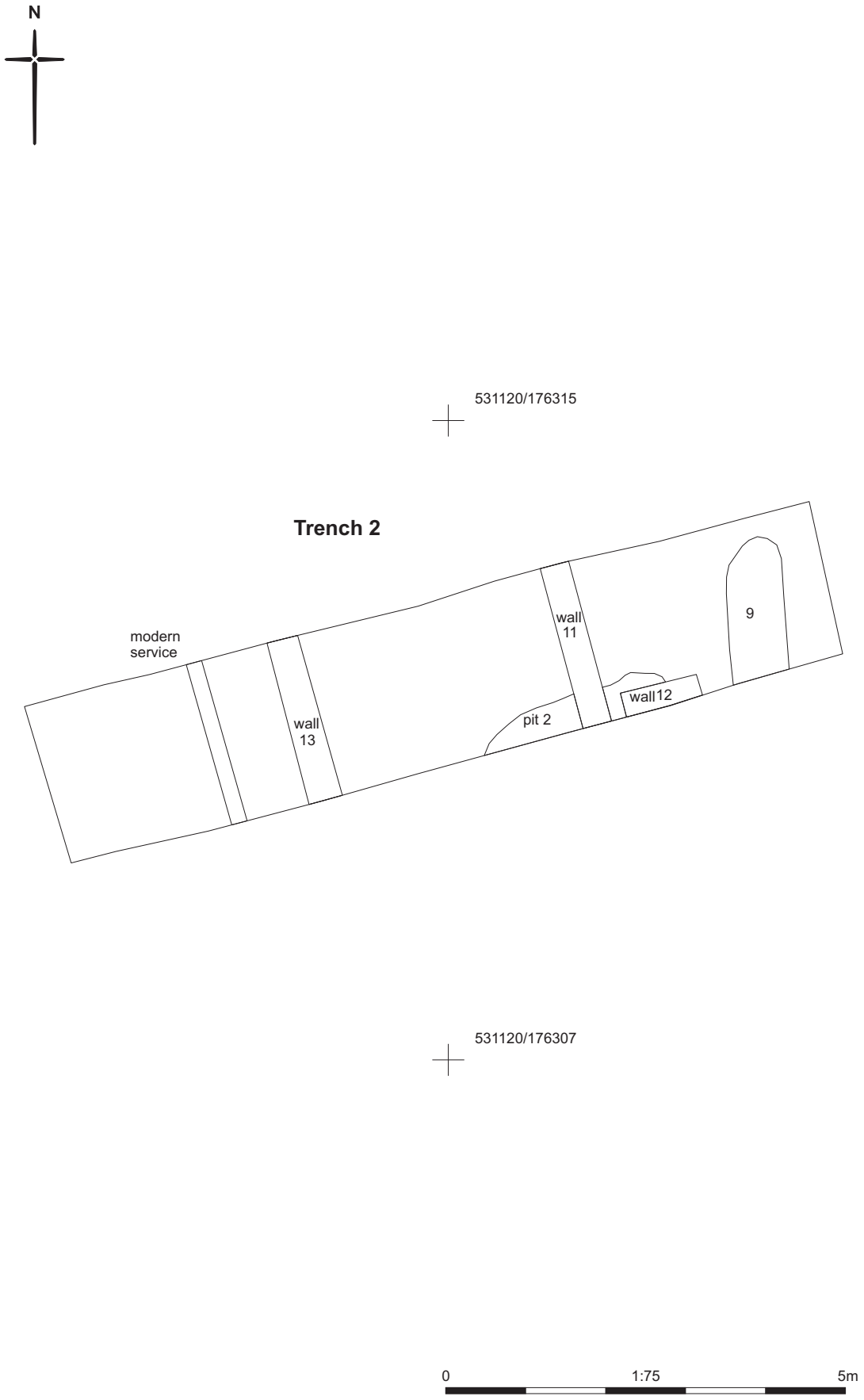

Fig 4 Trench 2

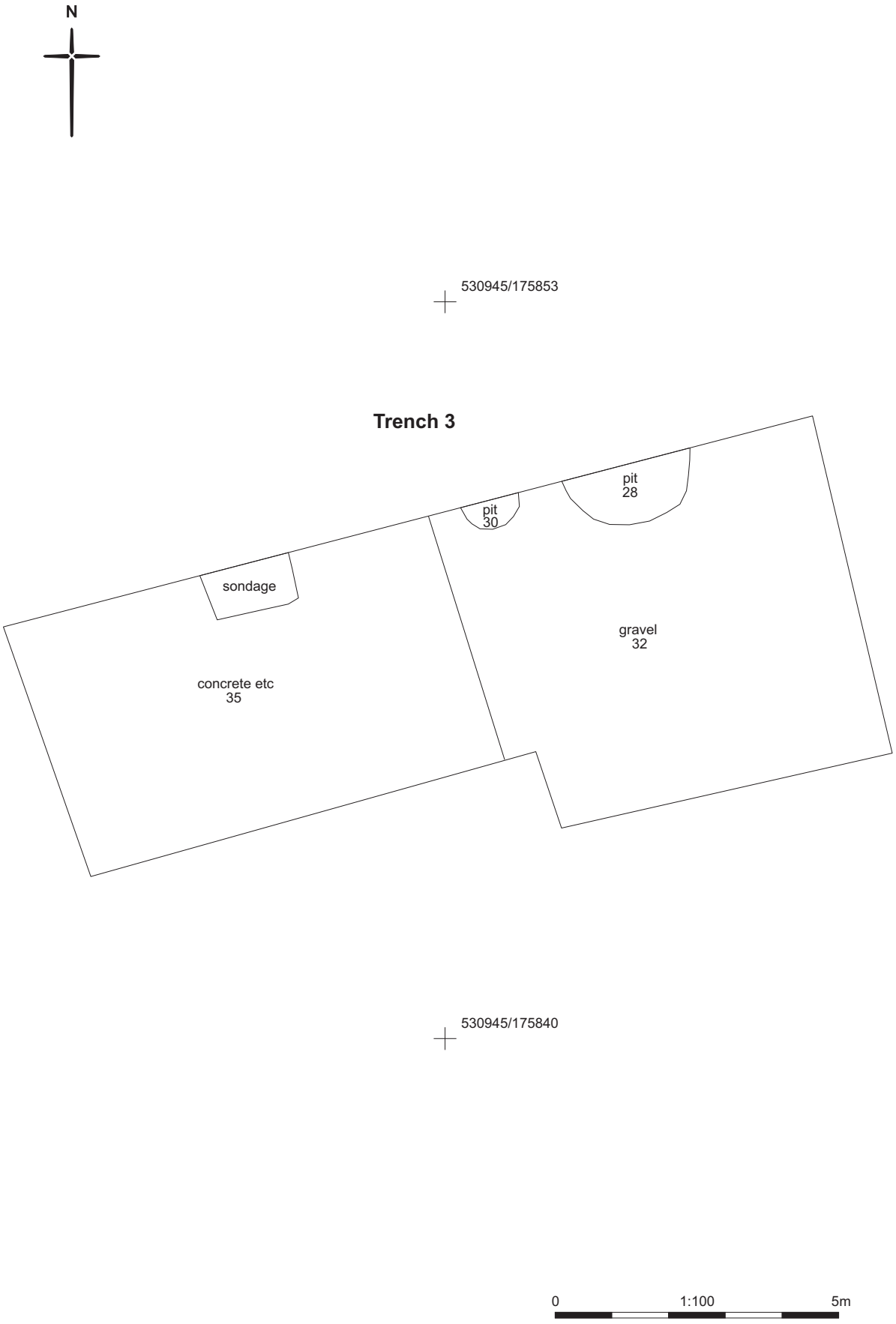

Fig 5 Trench 3

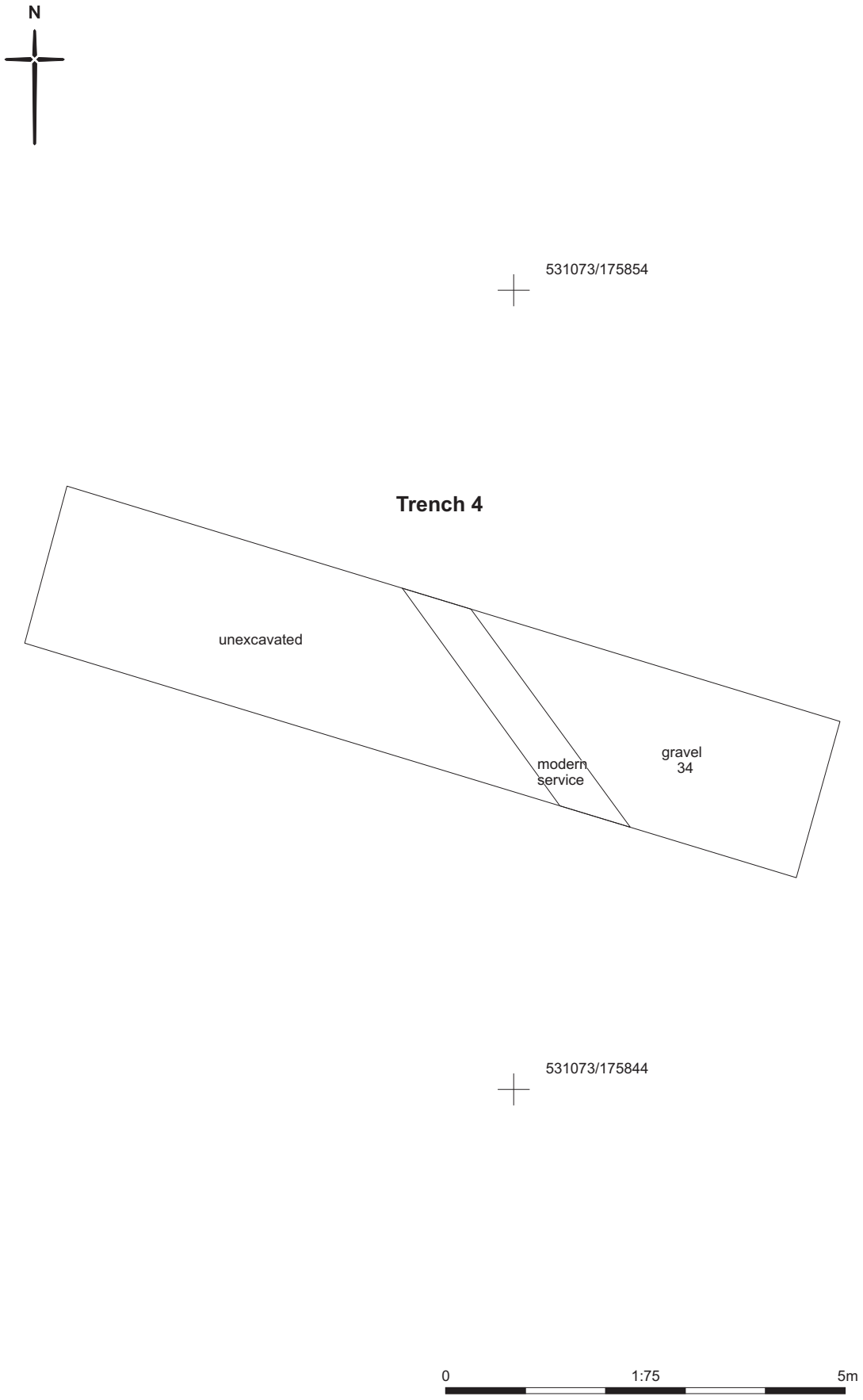

Fig 6 Trench 4