



**1-3 CONGREVE STREET &
6-11 TOWNSEND STREET**
London
SE17

London Borough of Southwark

An archaeological evaluation report

March 2005

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1-3 CONGREVE STREET &
6-11 TOWNSEND STREET
London
SE17

London Borough of Southwark

An archaeological evaluation report

Site Code: CGV04
National Grid Reference: 533083 178804

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of 1-3 Congreve Street & 6-11 Townsend Street, London, SE17. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by CgMs Consulting on behalf of the client Mount Anvil Construction Limited.

Following the recommendations of the Archaeological Planning Officer for Southwark, five evaluation trenches were excavated on the site

The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. The site revealed evidence relating to the Roman and Post-Medieval periods. A ditch dating to 1st/2nd century was recorded in the southeast of the site and pottery dating to the Roman period was recovered from subsoil deposits in two of the trenches excavated.

The Post-Medieval features recorded on the site included agricultural/horticultural soils, a possible ditch dating to the 17th century, and features and levelling layers associated with housing on the site dating from 18th century onwards.

In the light of revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes the impact of the proposed redevelopment is not significant.

Contents

1	Introduction	6
1.1	Site background	6
1.2	Planning and legislative framework	8
1.3	Planning background	8
1.4	Origin and scope of the report	8
1.5	Aims and objectives	9
2	Topographical and historical background	9
3	The evaluation	10
3.1	Methodology	10
3.2	Results of the evaluation	14
3.3	Assessment of the evaluation	22
4	Archaeological potential	23
4.1	Realisation of original research aims	23
4.2	General discussion of potential	25
4.3	Significance	25
5	Assessment by EH criteria	26
6	Proposed development impact and recommendations	28
7	Acknowledgements	29
8	Bibliography	29
9	NMR OASIS archaeological report form	31
9.1	OASIS ID: molas1-6926	31
10	Appendix 1:Roman Pottery Assessment	35
10.1	Quantification and description	35
10.2	Roman pottery	35

10.2.1	<i>Summary/Introduction</i>	35
10.2.2	<i>Methodology</i>	35
10.2.3	<i>Discussion</i>	35
10.3	Analysis of potential	36
11	Appendix 2: Registered finds and bulk glass	36
11.1	Registered finds	36
11.2	Bulk Glass	36
11.3	Discussion	36
12	Appendix 3: Roman Building Material Assessment	37
12.1	Summary note on Roman Building Materials	37
13	Appendix 4: Animal Bone Assessment	38
13.1	Quantification and assessment	38
13.1.1	<i>Introduction/methodology</i>	38
13.1.2	<i>Summary</i>	39
13.2	Analysis of potential	39
13.3	Significance of the data	39
13.4	Revised research aims	39
13.5	Method statements	39
13.6	Bibliography	40
14	Appendix 5: Botanical Assessment	40
14.1	Quantification and assessment	40
14.2	The botanical samples	40
14.2.1	<i>Introduction/methodology</i>	40
14.2.2	<i>Charred remains</i>	40
14.2.3	<i>Artefactual remains</i>	40
14.3	Tables	41

List Of Illustrations

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

Fig 1 Site location	7
Fig 2 Trench location plan	11
Fig 3 Detail from John Rocque's map of 1746	12
Fig 4 Detail from the 1819 updated version of Richard Horwood's map of London	12
Fig 5 Detail from Ordnance Survey map of 1894	13
Fig 6 Plan of Trench 1	15
Fig 7 Plan of Trench 2	17
Fig 8 Plan of Trench 4	21

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at 1-3 Congreve Street & 6-11 Townsend Street, London, SE17, hereafter called 'the site'. It is located at the site of a works factory, depot and electricity sub station and is bounded by Townsend Street to the west, the Old Kent Road to the north, Congreve Street to the south and houses on Preston Close, the site of 82-92 Old Kent Road and warehouses to the west. The OS National Grid Ref. for centre of site is 533083 178804. The level of the slab varied between 2.81m OD in the south and 2.83m OD in the north. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site along the pavement of Townsend Street is 2.77m OD. The site code is CGV04.

A desk-top *Specification for an archaeological evaluation* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (CgMs Consulting, 2004) 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.

An archaeological field evaluation was subsequently carried out on a series of evaluation trenches within the existing buildings between 12/11/2004 and 22/11/2004.

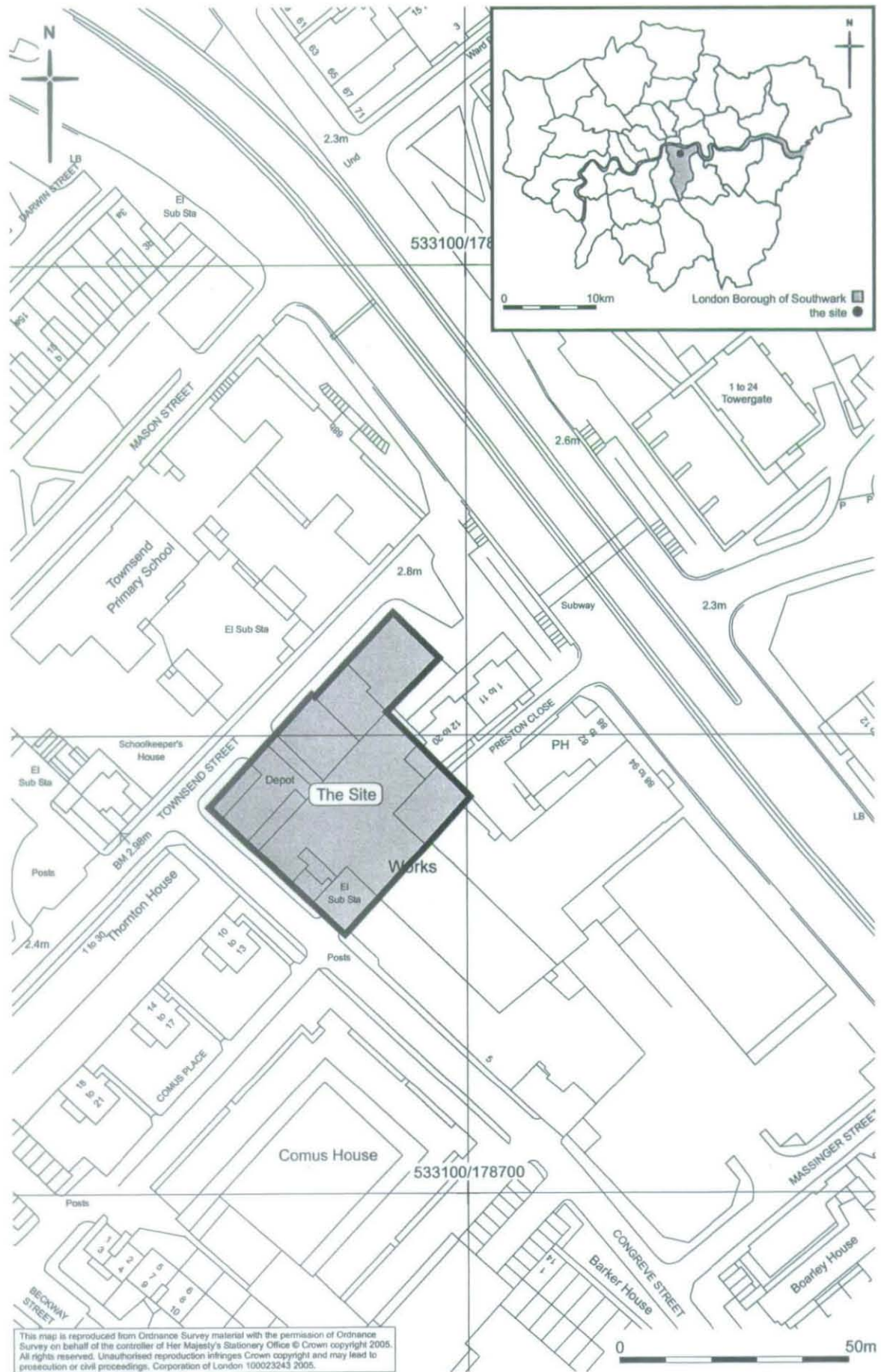


Fig 1 Site location

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Archaeological desk based assessment*, which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Sections 1 and 2, CgMs Consulting, 2004).

1.3 Planning background

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in response to a condition placed on planning permission (TP/2168-70).

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of the client Mount Anvil Construction Limited and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). 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 *Specification for an archaeological evaluation* (Section 2.2, CgMs Consulting, 2004):

- To determine the palaeotopography of the site.
- To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity.
- To determine the presence or absence of Roman activity.
- To establish the presence or absence of Medieval and Post Medieval activity.
- To establish the extent of past post depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

2 Topographical and historical background

A detailed description of the geology and history of the site was provided in the previous archaeological desk base assessment (Section 4, CgMs Consulting, 2004).

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Specification for an archaeological evaluation* (CgMs Consulting, 2004), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Five evaluation trenches were excavated within the site (Fig 2). The purpose of this was to evaluate the site in general and also to determine the presence or absence of Roman activity in light of the recent results of excavations at 82-96 Old Kent Road, to the immediate east of the site (Thrale, 2004).

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS and archaeological deposits were excavated by hand by members of staff from MoLAS.

The locations of evaluation trenches were recorded by members of the MoLAS site survey team and plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were taken from an existing site survey (Fig 2, CgMs Consulting, 2004).

The site has produced: a trench location plan; 38 context records; 5 section drawings at 1:20; five trench plans at 1:20 and a series of C/S, B/W and digital photographs. In addition several boxes of finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code CGV04 in the MoL archive.

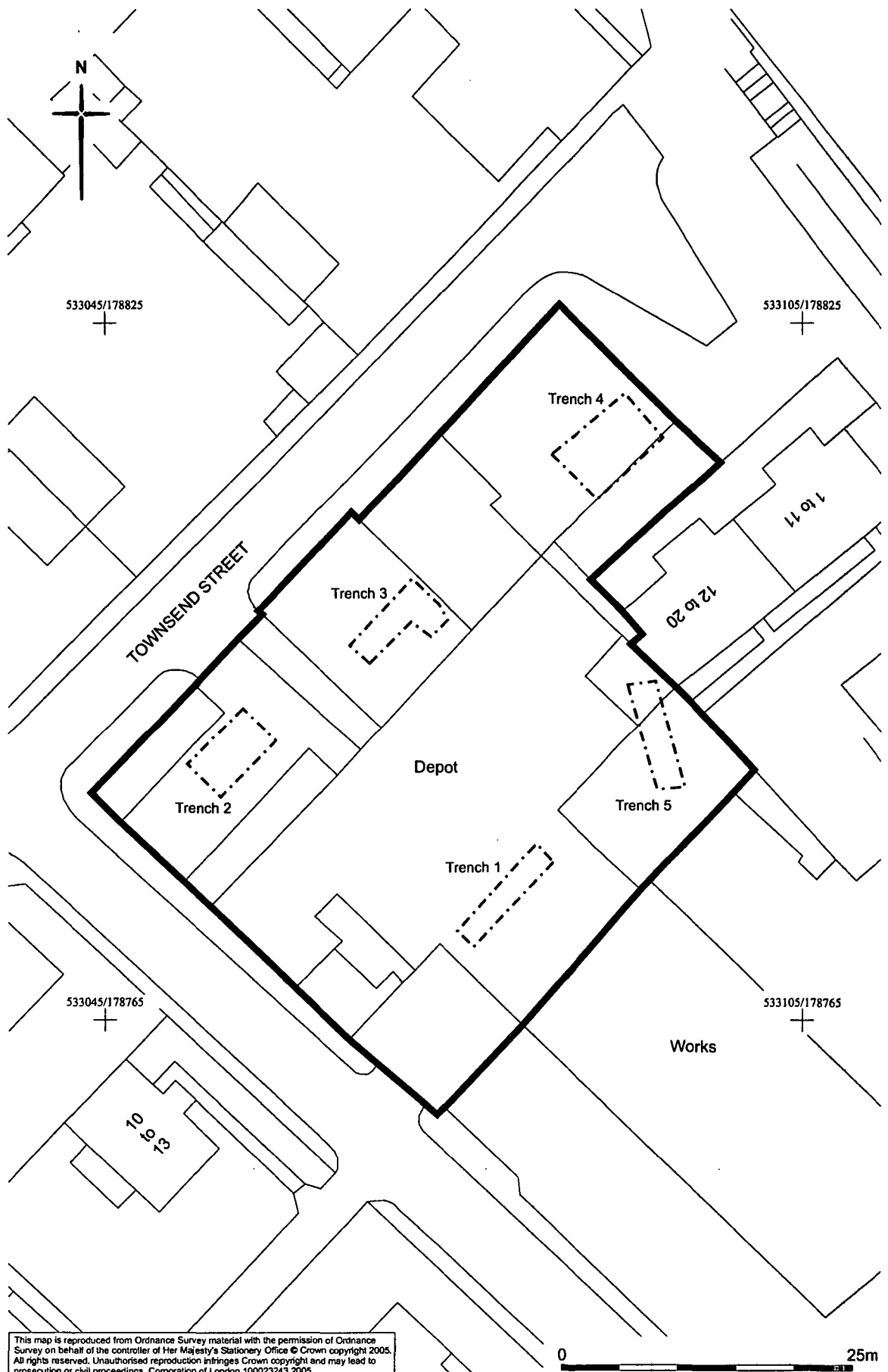


Fig 2 Trench location plan

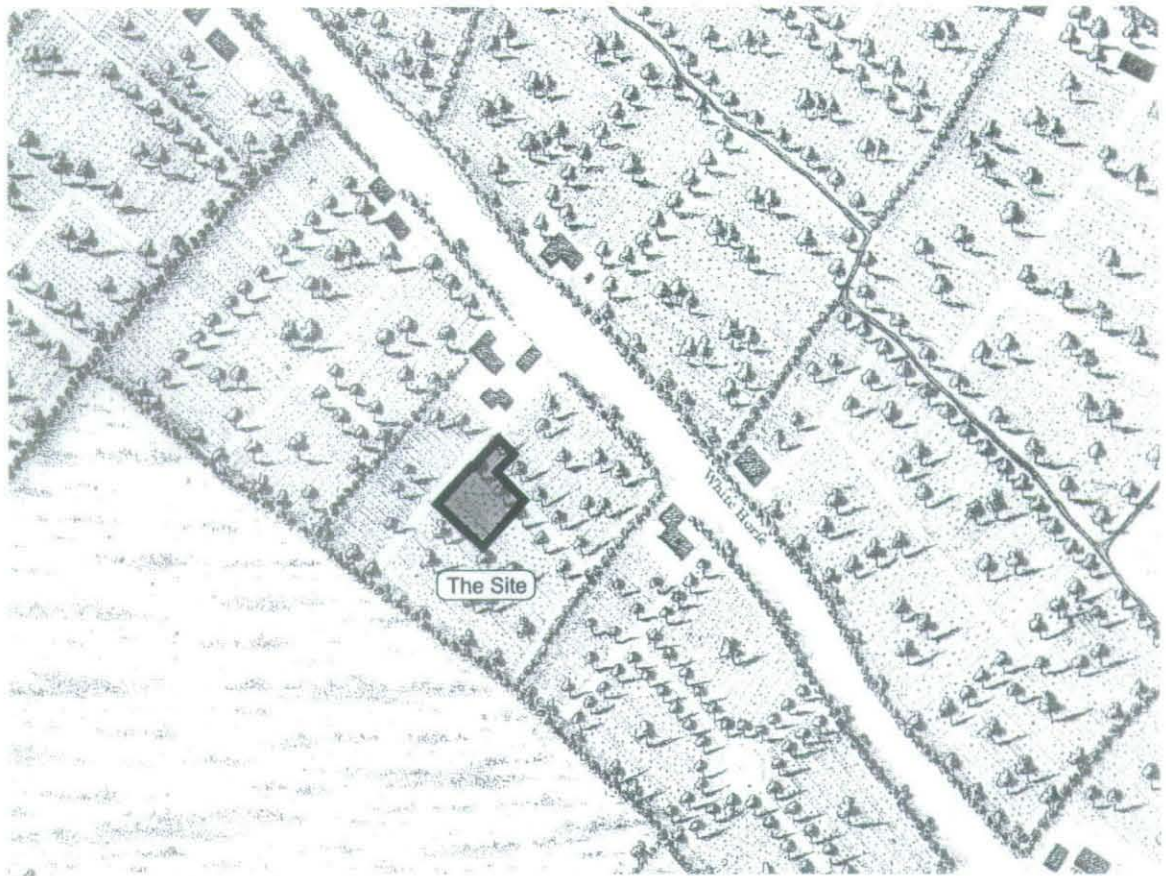


Fig 3 Detail from John Rocque's map of 1746

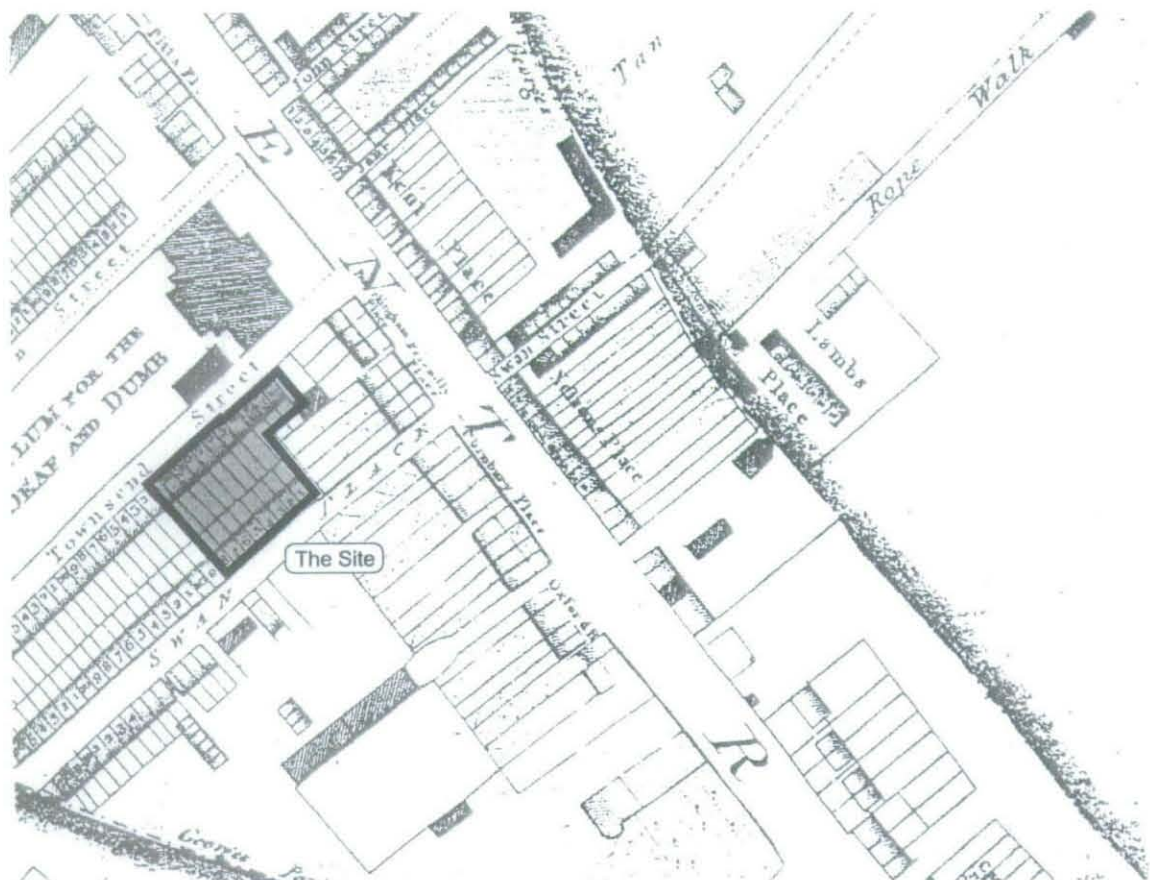


Fig 4 Detail from the 1819 updated version of Richard Horwood's map

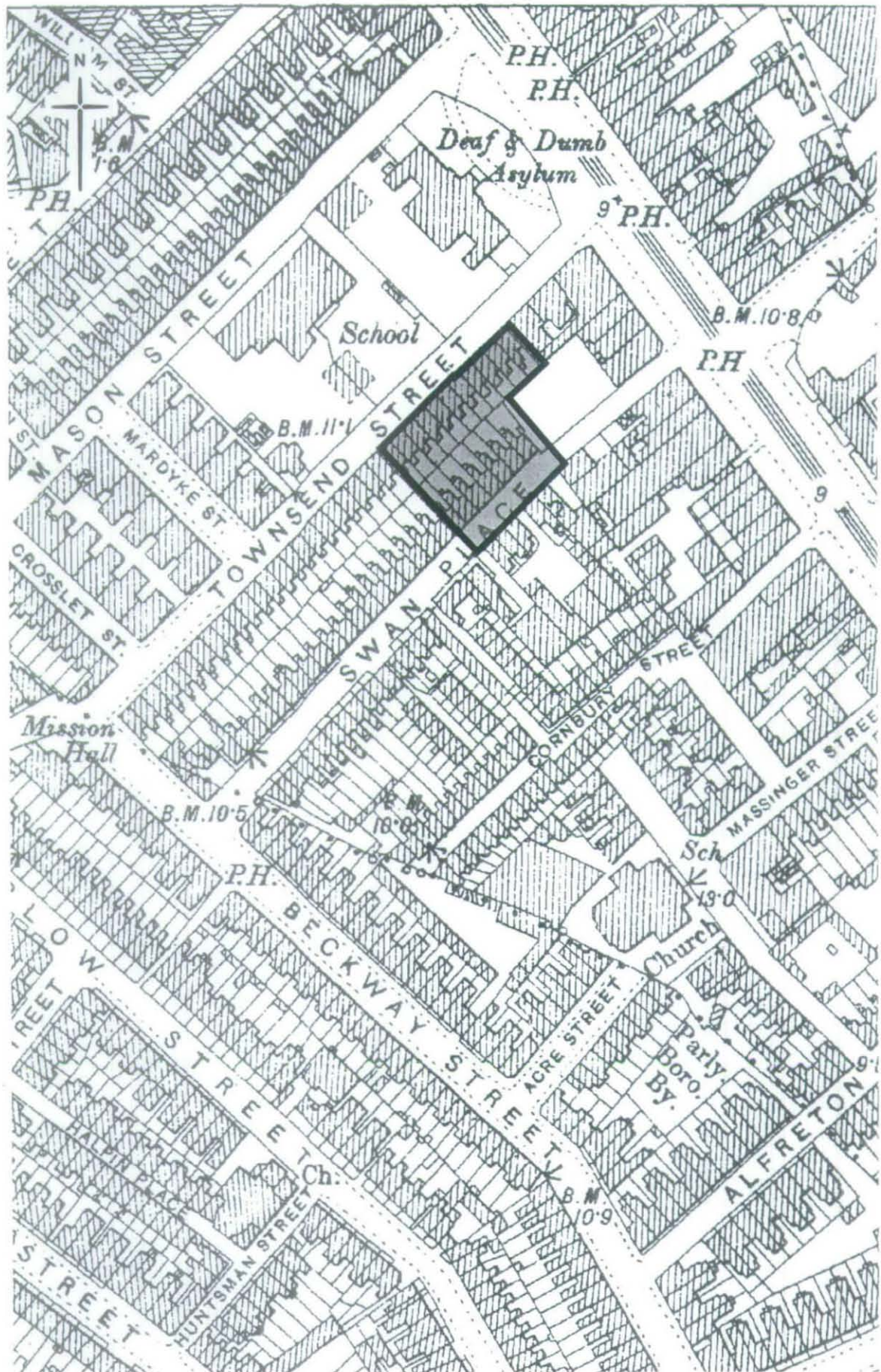


Fig 5 Detail from Ordnance Survey map of 1894

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see Fig 2.

<i>Evaluation Trench 1</i>	
Location	Within warehouse in S/E of site
Dimensions	10m N/E-S/W by 2m N/W-S/E
Modern ground level/top of slab	2.78m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	0.65m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.30m
Level of base of deposits observed	0.86m OD
Natural observed	1.80m OD

Trench 1 was located within a warehouse in the south east of the site. Natural deposits of silt, sand and clay [21] were recorded at a height of 1.25m OD, overlying gravel and sand deposits recorded at a height of 1.15m OD. Deposit [21] was white in colour and may represent alluvial deposits of Calcium Carbonate, or tufa, that was present across most of the site.

Overlying this, and recorded at a height of 1.80m OD, was a 0.40m thick layer of sandy silt subsoil [20] that may represent a possible cultivation horizon, recorded with a diffuse contact with the overlying layer [16].

Truncating subsoil [20], and recorded at a height of 1.77m OD, was a 0.82m deep, N/E by S/W running, ditch cut [19] which continued both east and west beyond the limit of excavation. The ditch contained two fills [17] and [18], the primary fill [18] was 0.25m thick, recorded at a height of 1.15m OD and consisted of clay and sand containing occasional fragments of animal bone and several sherds of Roman pottery dating to between AD 120-150. A sample of this deposit was taken for environmental analysis, which produced burnt flint and a very small amount of charred plant remains that may be remnants of crop waste charred within the vicinity of this ditch. The second fill [17] was 0.60m thick, recorded at a height of 1.77m OD and consisted of silty, sandy clay containing fragments of animal bone, burnt flint, Roman building material and two Roman pottery sherds dating to between AD 50-140.

Sealing the ditch fills and subsoil [20] was deposit [16], a 0.60m thick layer of clay, silt and sand [16], recorded at a height of 2.25m OD. This deposit may be a post-medieval horticultural soil or made ground associated with 18th century terraced housing seen on Richard Horwood's map of 1819 (Fig 4).

Layer [16] was truncated by a brick drain associated with 18-19th century terraced housing, a 20th century brick and cement service inspection pit and levelling deposits for the present concrete slab of the warehouse, recorded at 2.72m OD.

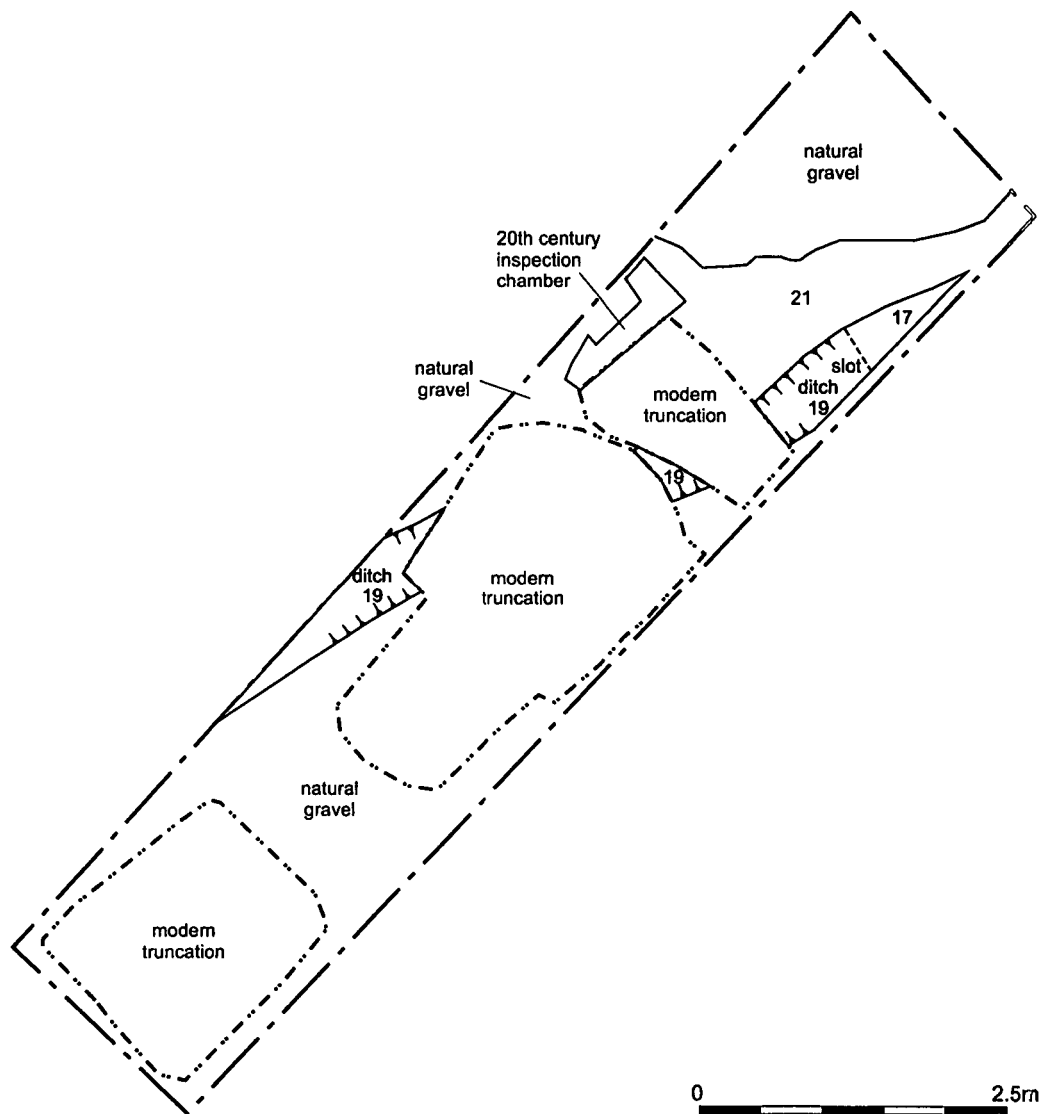


Fig 6 Plan of Trench 1

<i>Evaluation Trench 2</i>	
Location	Within depot yard in S/W corner of site
Dimensions	6.80m N/E-S/W by 4m N/W-S/E
Modern ground level/top of slab	2.72m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	2.08m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.60m
Level of base of deposits observed	1.39m OD
Natural observed	1.78m OD

Trench 2 was located within the depot yard in the southwest corner of the site. Natural slightly clayey, silty, sandy gravel [15] was recorded at a height of 1.30m OD in a machine-excavated slot in the northern half of the trench.

Overlying this, and recorded at a height of 1.78m OD, was a 0.40m - 0.50m thick layer of silty, sandy clay subsoil [14]. This deposit contained a single sherd of Roman pottery dating to between AD 120-400.

Above this deposit, and recorded at a heights of between 2.04m OD in the south and 2.22m OD in the north, was a 0.40m – 0.50m thick sandy silt layer [1] of either post medieval horticultural soil or made ground associated with terraced housing seen on the OS Map of 1894 (Fig 5).

Truncating this layer were a series of six features probably associated with the terraced housing. Two of these features, [3] and [13] were large post-holes, the fill [2] of post-hole [3] contained several sherds of pottery dating to between 1807-1840. The fill [12] of post-hole [13] contained several sherds of pottery dating to between 1740-1840.

Two more of the features, [9] and [11], were smaller post-holes. The other two features, [5] and [7] were irregular in shape but probably also small post-holes. The fills of all six features were all very similar and the features were most probably contemporary in date and related to the housing that occupied the site.

The demolition rubble of services and structures relating to 18th-20th century terraced housing also truncated layer [1] and were recorded at 2.38m OD. Truncating these deposits were modern services and levelling layers for the present concrete yard surface, which was recorded at a height of 2.72m OD.

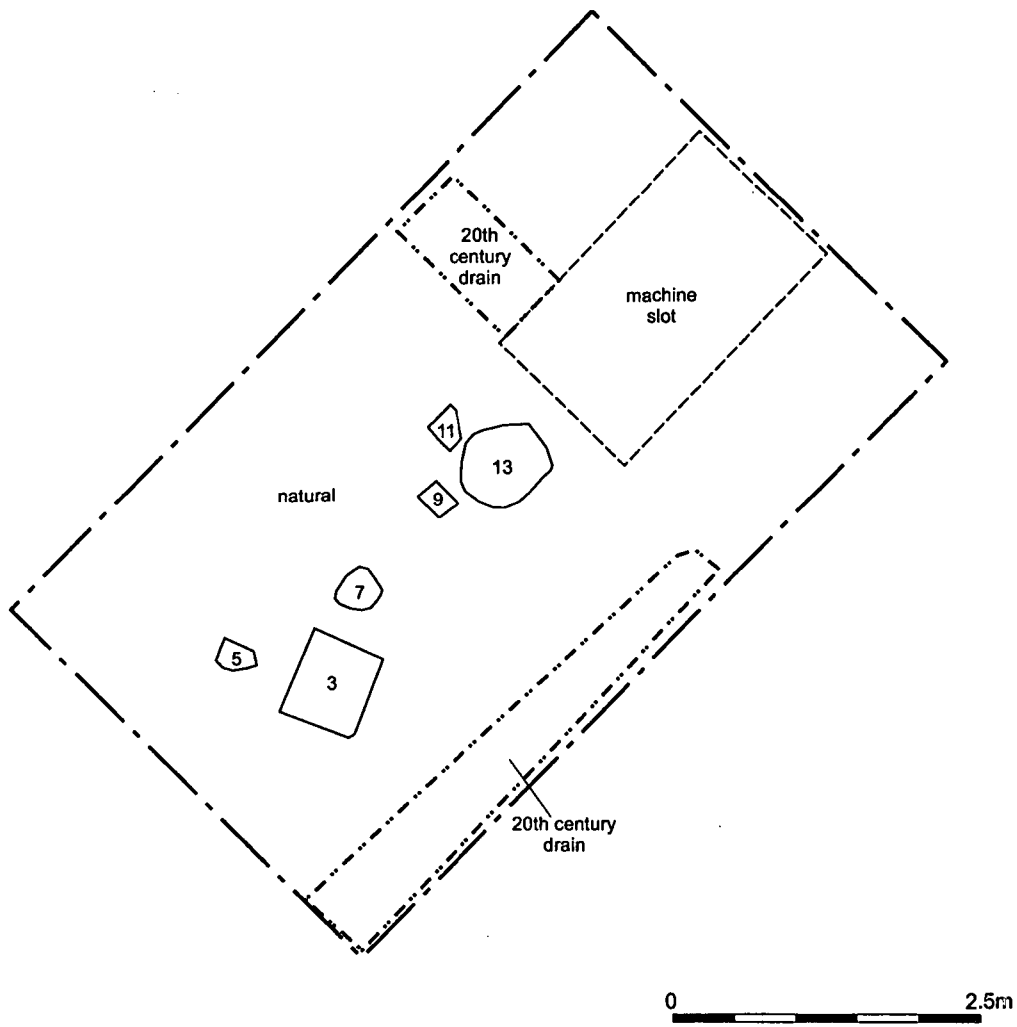


Fig 7 Plan of Trench 2

<i>Evaluation Trench 3</i>	
Location	Within building in western half of site
Dimensions	7.80m N/E-S/W by 2.50m N/W-S/E
Modern ground level/top of slab	2.93m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	2.32m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.70m
Level of base of deposits observed	1.68m OD
Natural observed	1.82m OD

Trench 3 was located within a building in the western half of the site. Natural clay, silt upon sand and gravel banding [25] was recorded at heights of between 1.76m OD in the north sloping down to 1.56m OD in the south. Overlying this, and recorded at a height of 1.82m OD was a 0.10m - 0.20m thick layer of clayey silt [24] subsoil that survives in part beneath later re-worked soil [23].

Layer [23], recorded at a height of 2.12m OD, consisted of a 0.30m – 0.35m thick deposit of sandy silt, containing occasional flecks of coal and brick, that had been constantly reworked and is probably a post-medieval agricultural/horticultural soil. The interface with the underlying subsoil was quite irregular with frequent root action and a possible suggestion of bedding trenches truncating its surface.

Sealing the agricultural/horticultural soil sequence, and recorded at heights of between 2.42m OD in the north and 2.32m OD in the south, was a 0.20m – 0.30m thick layer of sandy silt [22]. This deposit is a levelling layer probably associated with the development of housing on the site along Townsend Street. This deposit has been truncated by a series of 20th century service trenches. Overlying these services was a 0.40m thick levelling layer of brick rubble for the present concrete slab, which was recorded with a surface height of 2.93m OD.

<i>Evaluation Trench 4</i>	
Location	Within yard in N/W corner of site
Dimensions	7.70m N/E-S/W by 5m N/W-S/E
Modern ground level/top of slab	2.83m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	1.30m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.75m
Level of base of deposits observed	1.21m OD
Natural observed	1.47m OD

Trench 4 was located within a yard in the northwest corner of the site. A 0.35m thick layer of banded silt, sand, clay and white Calcium Carbonate *or tufa* [39] was recorded at a height of 0.86m OD. This natural deposit was machine excavated in a slot (Fig 9), which revealed underlying gravel [40] recorded at 0.50m OD. Overlying the tufa deposit was an alluvial deposit of silty clay and clayey silt and sand [38]. This deposit was 0.84m thick and recorded at a height of 1.45m OD.

Sealing this, and recorded at a height of 1.73m OD, was a 0.30m thick clayey silt subsoil layer [37]. This deposit, which was much disturbed by root action, contained fragments of possible Roman ceramic building material and two sherds of Roman pottery dating to between AD 50-400.

The western side of a N/E by S/W running, 0.75m deep cut [35] was recorded at heights of between 1.45m OD in the north and 1.41m OD in the south along the south east limit of excavation. This feature, which may be a ditch associated with post-medieval agriculture on the site or later horticultural activity as seen on John Rocque's map of 1746 (Fig 3) and Richard Horwood's map of 1819 (Fig 4), truncated subsoil layer [37] and continued both N/E and S/W beyond the trench limits.

Two fills were recorded in probable ditch cut [35]. The lower fill [34], recorded at heights of between 1.45m OD in the north and 1.21m OD in the south, was 0.56m – 0.75m thick and consisted of mixed clayey silt and sandy silt and contained occasional fragments of brick and tile, clay pipe fragments and pottery sherds dating to between 1660-1680. The upper fill [33], recorded at 1.41m OD, was 0.12m – 0.20m thick and was present in the southern half of the feature only. The fill consisted of sandy silt and contained occasional flecks of brick.

Sealing this probable ditch and subsoil [37], was a 0.80m thick layer of sandy silt [36]. This deposit, recorded at a height of 2.45m OD, is a post-medieval agricultural/horticultural soil that appears to have covered the site prior to housing development along Townsend Street.

A brick lined cesspit [32], which truncated layer [36] was recorded at a height of approximately 2.50m OD. This cesspit, which survived to a depth of 1.65m was probably early to mid-19th century in date and related to terraced buildings fronting onto Townsend Road in the west. The backfill [30] of the cesspit consisted of organic silt and household refuse including a large collection of pottery, clay pipe fragments and glass that may represent a house clearance and can be dated to between 1841-1860.

Layer [36] was also truncated in the west of the trench by the foundations and services of houses fronting onto Townsend Road and by the property wall to the rear of these buildings running along the eastern edge of the trench. The terraced houses were demolished during the 1950's and these features sealed by a levelling deposits for the present concrete slab, recorded with a surface height of a 2.83m OD.

<i>Evaluation Trench 5</i>	
Location	Within both Yard and warehouse in N/E corner of site
Dimensions	8.90m N/S by 2m E/W
Modern ground level/top of slab	2.81m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	1.20m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.95m
Level of base of deposits observed	1.48m OD
Natural observed	1.48m OD

Trench 5 was located in the northeast corner of the site. The southern extent of the trench was not fully excavated due to the presence live services. Natural gravel deposits [29] were recorded at a height of 1.10m OD. A 0.30m thick, layer of silt, sand and clay [28] was recorded at a height of 1.48m OD, overlying the gravel. These natural deposits were truncated in the southern half of the trench by modern services.

Sealing this, and recorded at a height of 1.76m OD, was a 0.30m – 0.35m thick layer of sandy, clay and silt [27]. This deposit, which may be an agricultural soil, contained Roman pottery sherds dating to between AD 50-400. Overlying this, and recorded at a height of 2.36m OD, was a 0.70m thick layer of clayey silt [26]. This deposit may be horticultural soil or a levelling layer associated with the terraced housing along the north west side of Swan Place, later named Comus Place, that occupied the site between the 18th century to the first half of the 20th century (Fig 5). This deposit was heavily truncated by modern services and sealed by a silt and brick rubble make-up layer for the present concrete slab, which was recorded with a surface height of 2.81m OD.

3.3 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 the five evaluation trenches were placed to evaluate the site in general and also to determine the presence or absence of Roman activity in light of the recent results of excavations at 82-96 Old Kent Road, to the immediate east of the site (Thrale, 2004).

The deposits observed within the trenches indicate the presence of Roman activity on the site in the form of a Roman ditch recorded in Trench 1 and Roman pottery sherds recovered from deposits in trenches 2 and 4.

The presence of post-medieval activity on the site was recorded in the form of a post-medieval ditch recorded in trench 4 and agricultural/horticultural deposits and levelling deposits relating to post-medieval housing recorded in all five trenches.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

- To determine the paleotopography of the site.

The earliest deposits present were natural sandy gravels, recorded at heights of 1.76m OD in Trench 3, sloping down to 0.50m OD in trench 4 to the north. These gravels represent the Pleistocene gravel terraces of the former floodplains of the River Thames.

The alluvial deposition above the gravel begins with a deposit of Calcium Carbonate, or tufa. In the northern half of trench 1, a 0.20m thick layer of this tufa [21] was recorded at a height of 1.25m OD.

In trench 4 a 0.35m thick deposit of tufa banded with silty clay and clayey silt [39] was recorded at a height of 0.86m OD. These deposits are characteristic of alluvium from the Atlantic climatic phase or *postglacial climatic optimum*, a period approximately 7500–5000 years ago. This period is generally considered to have been warm and wet. This condition generally tended to increase the incidence of flooding and also the rate of evaporation leading to the concentration of calcium deposits in freshwater.

These calcium deposits recorded on the site may represent carbonate/calcium enriched estuarine channels running across the area of the site.

Overlying these deposits, and also in trenches 2, 3 and 5 directly overlying gravel, was a 0.20m to 0.80m thick layer of sandy, clayey silt recorded at heights of between 1.48m OD in trench 5 and 1.82m OD in trench 3. These deposits are consistent with the results of forest clearance and agricultural intensification from the arrival of Neolithic farmers around 4000BC, through to the Iron Age (700BC and later).

- To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity.

There was no evidence for the presence of prehistoric activity on the site.

- To determine the presence or absence of Roman activity.

The deposits observed during the evaluation indicate the presence of Roman activity on the site in the form of a Roman ditch recorded in Trench 1 and Roman pottery sherds recovered from subsoil deposits in trenches 2 and 4.

In trench 1, located in the south east of the site, a N/E by S/W running ditch [19] contained two fills [17] and [18], the primary fill [18] contained Roman pottery sherds dating from AD 120-150. Fill [17] contained Roman pottery sherds dating from AD 50-140.

In trench 2, located in the southwest corner of the site, subsoil layer [14] contained a single sherd of Roman pottery dating from AD 120-400. In trench 4, located in the northwest corner of the site, subsoil layer [37] contained pottery sherds dating from AD 50-400.

- To establish the presence or absence of Medieval and Post Medieval activity.

Although no medieval activity was recorded on the site, the presence of post medieval activity on the site was recorded in all five trenches. This activity was represented by either agricultural/horticultural deposits dating to the post medieval period or levelling layers associated with the development of post medieval housing on the site.

In trench 4, a N/E by S/W running possible ditch cut [35] was recorded along the eastern edge of the trench. The primary fill [34] of this feature contained pottery sherds and clay pipe fragments dating from 1660-1680.

- To establish the extent of past post depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

The evaluation has shown that although there has been both residential and commercial development on the site, there is still a good survival of horizontal archaeological deposits and deeper cut features.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is good. There is also potential for survival of cut features. The depth of survival of archaeological deposits across the site varied to between 0.60m – 1.70m.

The presence of the 1st/2nd century ditch and Roman pottery found across the site has shown evidence for Roman activity.

Post medieval activity on the site was recorded in all five trenches. This activity was represented by either agricultural/horticultural deposits dating to the post medieval period or levelling layers associated with the development of post medieval housing on the site

4.3 Significance

Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 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 guide lines 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 stresses 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’ (DOE, Planning and Policy Guidance 16, 1990).

In the following passages the potential archaeological survival described in the initial Assessment document and Section 3.2 above will be assessed against these criteria.

Criterion 1: period

Taken as a whole, archaeology of the site is not characteristic of any particular period. The Evaluation indicates a multi period site. Evidence of Roman activity on the site was recorded in the form of both a ditch and the presence of Roman pottery sherds in subsoil deposits across the site.

Evidence of post medieval activity on the site from the 17th century onwards was recorded in the form of a possible ditch, agricultural/horticultural soils and levelling deposits associated with the development of post medieval housing.

Criterion 2: rarity

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

Criterion 3: documentation

There are no surviving documentary records for remains in the area from the Roman period.

The large volume of historic maps, have helped to establish the history of land use of the development site during the post-medieval period.

Criterion 4: group value

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

Criterion 5: survival/condition

The evaluation has show that although there has been both residential and commercial development on the site, there is still a good survival of horizontal archaeological deposits and deeper cut features.

Criterion 6: fragility

The remains observed during the evaluation are vulnerable to development across the site, particularly in the areas of proposed basements, deep foundations and services.

Criterion 7: diversity

The archaeological deposits present on the site represent agricultural activity in the Roman period and both agricultural activity and residential development through the post-medieval period.

Criterion 8: potential

The evaluation has shown that the remains have potential to make a limited contribution to a wider understanding of the archaeology in the local area.

6 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at 1-3 Congreve Street & 6-11 Townsend Street, London, SE17, involves the demolition of all buildings at the site, and their replacement with housing units. As part of this redevelopment a semi-basement (with a maximum depth of 1.8m below current ground surface) is proposed in the northeast corner of the site. Lifts are also proposed, which would require service pits at a maximum depth of 1.50m below the extent of the semi-basement. The impact of this and proposed piled foundations and services will be to penetrate and in some areas completely truncate deposits within the site. The impact on archaeological remains is considered to be insignificant.

The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.

7 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank CgMS consulting, who commissioned this report from MoLAS on behalf of the client Mount Anvil Construction Limited.

The author would also like to thank Sarah Gibson, Senior Archaeological Officer for the London Borough of Southwark, for her help and advice during the evaluation.

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9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

9.1 OASIS ID: molas1-6926

Project details

Project name 1-3 Congreve Street and 6-11 Townsend Street, London SE17

Short description of the project As part of the proposed redevelopment at 1-3 Congreve Street and 6-11 Townsend Street, London, SE17 an archaeological field evaluation was carried out between 12/11/2004 and 22/11/2004. The site revealed evidence relating to the Roman and Post-Medieval periods. A ditch dating to 1st/2nd century was recorded in the southeast of the site and pottery dating to the Roman period was recovered from subsoil deposits in two of the trenches excavated. The Post-Medieval features recorded on the site included agricultural/horticultural soils, a possible ditch dating to the 17th century, and features and levelling layers associated with housing on the site dating from 18th century onwards.

Project dates Start: 12-11-2004 End: 22-11-2004

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CGV04 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type DITCH Roman

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT Roman

Significant Finds POT Post Medieval

Methods & 'Documentary Search','Environmental Sampling','Sample

techniques Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK SOUTHWARK 1-3 Congreve Street and 6-11 Townsend Street, London SE17

Postcode SE17

Study area 1200 Square metres

National reference grid TQ 53308 17880 Point

Height OD Min: 1.47m Max: 1.82m

Project creators

Name of Organisation MoLAS

Project originator brief Consultant

Project originator design MoLAS

Project director/manager Derek Seeley

Project supervisor Paul Thrale

Sponsor or funding body Mount Anvil Construction Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC

recipient

Physical Archive ID CGV04

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Environmental', 'Glass'

Physical Archive
Exists? Yes

Digital Archive
recipient LAARC

Digital Archive ID CGV04

Digital Contents 'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Environmental', 'Glass', 'Survey'

Digital Media
available 'Database', 'Survey', 'Text'

Digital Archive
Exists? Yes

Paper Archive
recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID CGV04

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media
available 'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey', 'Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive
Exists? Yes

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 1-3 Congreve Street and 6-11 Townsend Street, London SE17

Author(s)/Editor(s) Thrale, P.

Date 2005

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Description An archaeological evaluation report

Entered by Paul Thrale (molas.archive@museumoflondon.org.uk)

Entered on 1 March 2005

10 Appendix 1: Roman Pottery Assessment

Rupert Featherby

10.1 Quantification and description

Table 1 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Roman pottery	12 sherds	242 grams
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10.2 Roman pottery

10.2.1 Summary/Introduction

There are 12 sherds of Roman pottery from 5 contexts all of which are small in size (less than 30 sherds). One context also produced post-Roman pottery. The sherds are generally small to medium in size with the majority being abraded.

10.2.2 Methodology

The pottery was spot-dated using standard MoLSS methods. It was quantified by rows and sherds and the data entered into the MoLAS/MoLSS Oracle database.

10.2.3 Discussion

Table 2 below shows the range of dates for CGV04. Three contexts are dated to the 1st/2nd centuries and two contexts, which basically date to the whole Roman period.

Table 2 Date range of assemblage

Date of Context	L date				
E date	140	150	160	400	Total
50	1		1	1	3
120		1		1	2
Total	1	1	1	2	5

This assemblage is too small to provide much information on any pottery-based issues: the majority of the sherds are abraded with several being quite heavily abraded. Furthermore, the pottery gives no indication as to the function of this site, although given its very abraded condition it is probable that this material has come from agricultural land. This assemblage needs to be examined alongside other groups from Southwark, particularly that from the adjacent site of 82-96 Old Kent Road (OKO04), which identified a possible burial structure.

10.3 Analysis of potential

Due to its size, the Roman assemblage has limited potential for the refinement of the dating once the spot-date information has been fully integrated with the stratigraphic sequence.

11 Appendix 2: Registered finds and bulk glass

Beth Richardson

11.1 Registered finds

There are three registered items:

<1> [30] Base and part of faceted bowl from a Rummer drinking glass. The flat base has a folded foot and short plain stem divided by a bladed knob. Comparable to a 19th century example illustrated in Bickerton 1971, fig 592.

<2>[30] Ornamental moulded top with faceted decoration (incomplete) probably from a clear glass cosmetic or ointment jar.

<3> [30] Two pieces (top and bottom) from a clear glass bottle of unknown function. The bottle tapers to a small flat base, has flattened sides and a moulded stopper which is continuous with the neck. There is a very small pierced hole in the top of the stopper. It could be a feeding bottle (although the hole is very small) or have a pharmaceutical use. (A preliminary internet search has not provided parallels, but a Victorian bottle collecting book almost certainly would identify its function).

11.2 Bulk Glass

There are two pieces of bulk glass from context [30]. A complete clear glass small pharmaceutical phial has a cylindrical body, a short neck, a flat out-turned rim and a pontil mark on its base. Pharmaceutical phials generally used for containing drafts, mixtures and other medicines are common post-medieval finds. This example is almost certainly 19th century, to be more closely dated by the ceramics from the same context. The rim (with a single string rim), neck and partial shoulder of a green glass cylindrical wine bottle is 18th or 19th century.

11.3 Discussion

All the finds come from a single context, the fill of a cess pit [31] backing onto terraced houses. The pottery is early-mid 19th century, thought to be residential waste, and the glass obviously is too although there is not much of it. It would be worth identifying the bottle <3>, but otherwise there is nothing which requires further work in the group.

Bibliography

Bickerton L M, 1971, *An Illustrated Guide to Eighteenth-Century English Drinking Glasses*, London

12 Appendix 3: Roman Building Material Assessment

Ian Betts

12.1 Summary note on Roman Building Materials

A total of 10 fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from CGV04 (contexts [17], [27], [37]). These comprise four fragments of roofing tile (imbrex and tegula), two fragments of brick and four small pieces of uncertain form. Many of the fragments show signs of abrasion.

The tiles are in two local London area fabric groups (2815 and 3023/3060) both of which can be dated to the period AD50–160. This agrees well with the date of the associated pottery in contexts [17] and [27].

The Roman ceramic building material could indicate Roman building activity in the area, but such a small assemblage could also have been brought in from elsewhere for other uses such as hardcore.

13 Appendix 4: Animal Bone Assessment

Alan Pipe

13.1 Quantification and assessment

Table 3: Contents of animal bone archive

ASSEMBLAGE	Weight (g)	Nos.	Boxes
Animal bone (hand-collected)	0.105 kg	16 fragments	one archive quality 'shoebox'

Table 4: Hand-collected animal bone from CGV04/summary

CONTEXT	WT (kg)	FRAGS	PRES ERV	NOS	LMAM	SMAM	FISH	BIRD	AMPH	MAND IBLES	MEASU RABLE	EPIPH YSES	LONG BONE
17	0.1	25- 75mm	mediu m	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
18	0.005	25- 75mm	good	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0.105			16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

Table 5: Hand-collected animal bone from CGV04/detailed summary

CONTEXT	SPECIES	PART	AGE	STATE
17	ox	mandible	mature	fragment
17	ox-sized	fragments		
17	ox-sized	femur	mature	
17	horse	metatarsal	mature	
18	ox	maxillary molar 3	mature	worn

13.1.1 Introduction/methodology

The hand-collected animal bone from contexts [17] and [18] was recorded directly onto the MoLAS/MoLSS Oracle 8 animal bone assessment and post-assessment databases. Each bone was weighed (g) and described in terms of fragmentation, preservation, species-composition, carcase-part representation, estimated numbers of epiphyses and mandibular tooth rows, presence of sub-adult age-groups, and bone modification in terms of butchery, working, burning, gnawing and pathological change. Identification referred to the MoLSS Environmental Archaeology Section animal bone reference collection. When identification to species level was precluded by excessive fragmentation or poor preservation, bones were allocated to the approximate category 'ox-sized' as appropriate.

13.1.2 Summary

Tables 4 and 5 summarise the characteristics of each context group. Table 4 gives the general characteristics of the material in terms of weight, fragmentation, preservation, estimated fragment numbers, faunal composition, evidence for age at death and recovery of complete longbones and measurable bones. Table 5 gives the detailed composition of each context group in terms of species-composition, skeletal element and condition.

A total of 0.105 kg, 16 fragments, of generally moderately-preserved animal bone was recovered by hand-collection. Fragment size generally ranged between 25 and 75 mm. The groups ranged between 0.005kg/one fragment from [18] to 0.100 kg/15 fragments from [17]. The assemblage derived mainly from ox *Bos taurus* with fragments of ox-sized femur and longbone, and a single fragment of horse. There was no recovery of fish, amphibians, birds or small mammals, and no wild 'game' species.

Context [17] produced fragments of ox mandible, and ox-sized femur and longbone; areas of moderate and good meat-bearing value; together with a single fragment of ox metatarsal ('hind foot'). Context [18] produced only a single worn ox maxillary third molar indicating an animal in at least the fourth year of life (Amorosi 1989, 57). There were no mandibular tooth rows, measurable bones or complete bones, and only two epiphyses; therefore negligible potential for study of age at death or stature. There was no evidence for butchery, working, burning, gnawing or pathological change.

13.2 Analysis of potential

The assemblage has no potential for further study of the meat diet and will not allow interpretation of local habitats.

13.3 Significance of the data

This small assemblage is of limited local significance only; there is no regional, national, or international significance.

13.4 Revised research aims

Further study of the animal bone will not contribute to any research aim, and will not allow interpretation of economy or local environmental conditions.

13.5 Method statements

No further work is required.

13.6 Bibliography

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Table 4: Hand-collected animal bones from CGV04/summary

Table 5: Hand-collected animal bones from CGV04/detailed summary

14 Appendix 5: Botanical Assessment

Kate Roberts

14.1 Quantification and assessment

Table 6 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Bulk soil sample	flot from 1 sample
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14.2 The botanical samples

14.2.1 Introduction/methodology

One sample of 20 litres was taken for environmental analysis. This came from a ditch, which may be Roman in date. The sample was processed by flotation, using a Siraf flotation tank, and meshes of 0.25mm and 1.00mm to catch the flot and the residue respectively. The flot was then dried prior to examination. The residue was dried, and then sorted for finds and environmental material. The flot was briefly scanned using a low-powered binocular microscope, and the abundance, diversity and general nature of plant macrofossils and any faunal remains were recorded on the MoLAS ORACLE database. The results are recorded in, Table 7, Table 8, Table 9 and Table 10.

14.2.2 Charred remains

Ditch fill [18] produced a very small amount of charred plant remains. These were a small quantity of charred seeds from the plants vetch/tare/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* spp.) and bedstraw (*Galium* sp.). These are all plants that grow on disturbed ground, and are all possible arable crop weeds. The vetch/tare/pea seeds are possible food crops, but are commonly found as crop weeds. It is possible that these seeds are remnants of crop waste, which was charred in the vicinity of this ditch.

14.2.3 Artefactual remains

Burnt flint was present in this sample.

14.3 Tables

Table 7 Finds present in residue

Context	Sample	BI	Dating	Contituent	Proportion
18	1		120-150	BFLINT	O

Table 8 Processing details

Context	Sample	Dating	Residue Vol	Bulk Sample Vol (l)	Residue Mesh Size (mm)	Flot mesh Size (mm)	Flot (ml)	Vol un-processed
18	1	120-150	3.2	20	1	0.25	Y 2	U

Table 9 Contents of flots

Context	Sample	BI	Dating	Process	Constituent	Abundance	Diversity	Comment
18	1		120-150	F	CHD SEEDS	1	1	GAL, VIC/LAT/PIS
		1	120-150	F	CHD WOOD	2	1	
		1	120-150	F	WLG ROOTS	2	1	
		1	120-150	F	WLG SEEDS	1	1	

Table 10 Environmental remains

Con	Samp No	BI	Dating	Res Vol (l)	Flot Vol. (ml)	Proc	CHD Seeds A D	CHD Wood A D	WLG Seed A D	Comments
18	1		120-150	3.2	2	F	1 1	2 1	1 1	A FEW CHARRED WEED SEEDS