

Love Lane, Woolwich Greater London

Phase 2



Archaeological Observation and Recording Report



December 2011

Client: Tesco Stores Ltd.

Issue No:1

OA Job No: 4938

NGR: TQ 435 787



Client Name: Tesco Stores Ltd
Client Ref No: PO. 20569255
Document Title: Love Lane, Woolwich, Greater London. Phase 2
Document Type: Archaeological Observation and Recording Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: 543500 178700
Planning Reference: 06/1751/O
OA Job Number: 4938
Site Code: LWI 08
Invoice Code: LWIWB2
Receiving Museum: Museum of London

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	David Score Senior Project Manager	Dan Poore Fieldwork Manager	David Score Senior Project Manager	

Document File Location Server 1/Projects/Woolwich Love Lane/Phase 2 WB
Graphics File Location As noted on drawings
Illustrated by Conan Parsons

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2011

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



Love Lane, Woolwich, Greater London. Phase 2

Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

Written by David Score

Table of Contents

Summary.....	2
1 Introduction.....	3
1.1 Scope of work.....	3
1.2 Location, geology and topography.....	3
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	3
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	4
2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology.....	5
2.1 Aims.....	5
2.2 Methodology.....	5
3 Results and Interpretation.....	6
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results.....	6
3.2 Area 1 (Fig.3 Section 201).....	6
3.3 Area 2 (Fig.3 Section 202).....	6
3.4 Finds summary.....	7
4 Conclusion.....	8
Appendix A. Context Inventory.....	9
Appendix B. References.....	10
Appendix C. Summary of Site Details.....	11

Figures

Fig.1	Site location
Fig.2	Site plan
Fig.3	Sample sections

Plate

Plate	Wall foundation 201
-------	---------------------



Summary

In May, October and November 2011 Oxford Archaeology carried out Archaeological Observation and Recording (watching brief) on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd on two areas of a new development at Love Lane, Woolwich. Much of the site had suffered significant truncation by previous development but these two areas had the potential to contain archaeologically significant deposits as the level of previous disturbance in them was not clear. The observation and recording exercise has confirmed that deposits relating to the previous military barracks on the site have been almost completely removed by clearance prior to redevelopment in the 1970's. The truncated nature of one surviving stub of wall in Area 1 serves to highlight the otherwise comprehensive nature of this clearance. No other archaeological features were seen.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 A major redevelopment of a large part of Woolwich town centre to the south-east of Wellington Street is currently being implemented (Fig.1). The overall development will include the construction of a new civic building, a supermarket, various other retail units and a large number of residential units.
- 1.1.2 The Love Lane development has a phased programme and planning permission for Phase 2 (the main retail element) has been granted (planning reference: 06/1751/O). Following an assessment of the impact of the Phase 2 construction on the potentially surviving historic resource on the site (OA June 2008a) English Heritage (Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service) who act as advisers to Greenwich Borough Council on planning issues related to heritage determined the level of archaeological work required on Phase 2 of the development. OA were commissioned by Cyril Sweett on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd to undertake an archaeological observation and recording exercise (watching brief) on two specific areas of the site with the potential to contain preserved archaeological remains.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- The Phase 2 development site is bordered by Grand Depot road to the south east and Love Lane to the north east and north west (Fig. 2). It is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 435 787 and slopes downwards from c.24m OD at its south western extent to c.15m OD at its north eastern end.
- 1.2.1 The underlying geology across the middle and west of the site comprises the clays and sands of the Woolwich Beds. The remainder of the site lies on Thanet Sands. The Thanet Sands also lie immediately to the east and north of the site and the sand and pebbles of the Blackheath Beds lie immediately to the west and south. The Woolwich and Blackheath Beds support relatively poorly drained soils which would not have been attractive to early farmers and tend to produce boggy heath as is still evident to the immediate west of the site on Woolwich Common. The Thanet Sands, however, are relatively free draining and appear to have settlement concentrated upon them from an early date.
 - 1.2.2 Prior to development the majority of the Phase 2 site area was occupied by a substantial council offices building with an extensive basement car park (Peggy Middleton House).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The historic background and mapping to the site can be found in Proposed development at the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (OA June 2006) and Woolwich Peggy Middleton House Site - Love Lane. Environmental Impact Assessment Baseline and Impact Assessment, Archaeology (OA April 2006).
- 1.3.2 OA have completed below-ground archaeological evaluation (OA July 2008a) on behalf of Greenwich Borough Council during Phase 1 of the project to construct new civic offices immediately to the north west of the Phase 2 area. No significant archaeological features were revealed. A report on the buildings on the Wellington Street frontage which were demolished during the Phase 1 works has been compiled (OA June 2008b)



and a report on surviving historic wall elements adjacent to Love Lane has also been produced (May 2008).

- 1.3.3 An assessment of the potential of the Phase 2 area (OA June 2008a) concluded that much of the site had been previously truncated, particularly by the extensive basement under Peggy Middleton House. Of the remaining ground historic maps indicated that two areas had uncertain potential to contain archaeological remains. Area 1 at the south western extent of site in an area historically occupied by the Grand Depot Barracks and Area 2 at the north eastern extent in an area historically occupied by the Royal Engineers Barracks. These military complexes which first appear at the start of the 19th century were present on the site until it was cleared to facilitate redevelopment in the mid 1970's when Peggy Middleton House was constructed.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank Willmott Dixon the Principal Contractor at the site for their cooperation and assistance in facilitating the archaeological work, in particular Brendan McManus and Greg Woods. The site work was undertaken by David Score, Dan Sykes and Gemma Stewart. The project was managed for OA by David Score and monitored on behalf of Greenwich Borough Council by Mark Stevenson from English Heritage.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 General:

- To record any archaeological remains present.
- To record the date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- To record the extent, condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- To retrieve and record any artefactual or environmental evidence present.
- To make available the results of the investigation by means of a report.

2.1.2 Specific:

- To identify and record any remains relating to the former Grand Depot and Engineers Barracks.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The ground works in Areas 1 and 2 (Fig.2) were subject to archaeological observation during the development phase but in addition to this, at the suggestion of Willmott Dixon the Principal Contractor for the site, a degree of pro-active excavation and some partial stripping was undertaken under the direct control of an archaeologist in advance of the main bulk excavations. The aim of this was to investigate and qualify the deposits in the two areas in safe and controlled conditions which would allow a proper record to be made. If significant archaeological deposits proved to be present the methodology for the main phase of ground works could be adjusted accordingly. The fieldwork was undertaken in May 2011 with further attendance in October and November 2011.

2.2.2 All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation for the site (OA July 2008b) and GLAAS guidance papers (EH 1998) and the guidance issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

2.2.3 Intrusive ground works were monitored by an experienced archaeological Manager or Project Officer. A record of deposits observed was made using a unique context numbers system and plans and sample sections drawn to scales of 1:50 and 1:20 as appropriate. A photographic record using digital format and black-and-white print negatives as well as a general photographic record of the work was made. Recording was carried out in accordance with established OA practice as detailed in the OA Fieldwork Manual (Wilkinson 1992).

3 RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The sequence of deposits in each of the observation areas is described and interpreted below and illustrated in a representative sample section on Figure 3. A list of contexts is presented in Appendix A.

3.2 Area 1 (Fig.3 Section 201)

- 3.2.1 Area 1 is situated at the south western end of the Phase 2 site. A broadly similar sequence of deposits was observed across this area.
- 3.2.2 The natural greenish brown sandy clay (207) was observed at approximately 3.35m below current ground level at 19.05m OD. This was overlain by a 0.6m thick mixed deposit of soil, sandy clay and demolition material (206) in turn overlain by a 0.15m thick layer containing mainly crushed building material (205) which appeared to act as a rough consolidating layer for a rudimentary 0.1m thick 'metalled' surface of compacted gravel (204). This surface was overlain by a 2.2m thick deposit of mixed soil, sand, clay and gravel with numerous brick pieces and other modern inclusions (203) which was in turn covered by a 0.3m thick mat of modern crush material (202) laid down to create a parking area for the current development and which replaced the topsoil and road which had formed the ground surface prior to the commencement of works.
- 3.2.3 Evidence of the Grand Depot Barracks was seen in a few stubs of wall foundation and parts of a brick drain which were noted cut into the natural sandy clay (207). These were characterised but not recorded in detail due to their sparse and fragmentary nature. An exception to this was wall foundation 201 (Fig.2 and Plate) which survived for a length of 5m and to a maximum 7 courses of brick work set on a base course of bricks set on edge. This wall was 0.57m wide and as a fairly substantial structure on a north west – south east alignment it appears to be a main wall of one of the barrack blocks which can be seen on historic maps of the area. It is also cut into the natural sandy clay the upper surface of which represents a clear horizon of truncation for any remains of the barracks. Further, it seems that a comprehensive clearance and removal of the structural elements of the barracks has been undertaken. The complete removal of the continuations of wall 201 at either end of the surviving piece and the uneven truncation to its upper courses of brickwork taken in conjunction with the distinct lack of other significant structural evidence testify to this. Why this particular piece escaped complete removal it is not possible to say.
- 3.2.4 The sequence of deposits described above appears to date from the period of clearance of the barracks and construction of Peggy Middleton House. The lower made ground deposit, crush layer and rough gravel surface (206-204) being laid down following a thorough removal of the barracks and truncation into the natural horizon. The surface probably represents the level of construction of Peggy Middleton House and the substantial overlying deposits (203) are landscaping and re-modelling of the ground (probably including up cast from the substantial basement being created) raising it to current levels.

3.3 Area 2 (Fig.3 Section 202)

- 3.3.1 Area 2 is situated at the north eastern end of the Phase 2 site.



- 3.3.2 The natural orange brown sandy gravel (211) was revealed at approximately 0.6m below current ground level at 14.6m OD. This was overlain by a 0.2m thick deposit of modern made ground (210) consisting of sand and gravel mixed with crushed building material which formed the foundation for a 0.3m thick concrete slab base (209) for a 0.1m thick tarmac surface (208), the car park for the Crown Building adjacent to the north east.
- 3.3.3 The surface of the natural gravel in this area was heavily disturbed by modern intrusions including significant services. No evidence of the previous Engineers Barracks or other archaeological features was seen. The horizon of truncation was a minimum of 0.6m below the presumed floor level associated with the barracks inferred from the blocked arch in the surviving boundary wall to the north west (OA May 2008). In common with Area 1 this area had also been subjected to thorough clearance prior to the construction later buildings.

3.4 Finds summary

- 3.4.1 Modern finds present in the made ground deposits were noted during the works but not retained. No deposits suitable for environmental analysis were encountered.



4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 Areas 1 and 2 of this phase of the development had the potential to contain archaeologically significant deposits as the level of previous disturbance in these areas was not clear. The observation and recording exercise has confirmed that deposits relating to the previous military barracks on the site have been almost completely removed by clearance prior to redevelopment in the 1970's. The truncated nature of one surviving stub of wall in Area 1 serves to highlight the otherwise comprehensive nature of this clearance. No other archaeological features were seen.



APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Love Lane, Woolwich. Phase 2						
context no	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	finds	date
Area 1						
201	Structure	0.57	0.7 max	Truncated NW-SE brick wall foundation	-	Early 19 th C
202	Layer	-	0.3	Current development crush deposit	-	21 st C
203	Layer	-	2.2	Made ground / landscaping deposit	-	20 th C
204	Layer	-	0.1	Consolidated gravel surface	-	20 th C
205	Layer	-	0.15	Demolition material, consolidation deposit	-	20 th C
206	Layer	-	0.6	Demolition material / made ground	-	20 th C
207	Layer	-	-	Natural (sand / clay)	-	-
Area 2						
208	Layer	-	0.08	Tarmac car park surface	-	20 th C
209	Layer	-	0.3	Concrete make up for tarmac	-	20 th C
210	Layer	-	0.2	Made ground	-	20 th C
211	Layer	-	-	Natural (gravel)	-	-



APPENDIX B. REFERENCES

OA July 2008a *New Civic Offices, Woolwich, London. Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Client Report

OA July 2008b *Love Lane, Woolwich, Greater London. Phase 2. Written Scheme of Investigation. Archaeological Observation and Recording*. Client Report

OA June 2008a *Love Lane, Woolwich, Greater London. Assessment of Phase 2 Development Impact on Buried Archaeology*. Client Report

OA June 2008b *New Civic Offices, Wellington Street, Woolwich, Greater London. Building Recording*. Client Report

OA May 2008 *Love Lane Development, Woolwich, Greater London. Recording and Assessment of Historic Walls*. Client Report

OA June 2006 *Proposed development at the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*. Client Report

OA April 2006 *Woolwich Peggy Middleton House Site - Love Lane. Environmental Impact Assessment Baseline and Impact Assessment, Archaeology*. Client Report

OA 1992, *Fieldwork Manual*, (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Love Lane, Woolwich, Greater London. Phase 2

Site code: LWI 08

Grid reference: 543500 178700

Type: Watching Brief

Date and duration: Visits during May, October and November 2011

Area of site: Development area c.1.4ha. Watching Brief area c.0.26ha

Summary of results: In May, October and November 2011 Oxford Archaeology carried out Archaeological Observation and Recording (watching brief) on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd on two areas of a new development at Love Lane, Woolwich. Much of the site had suffered significant truncation by previous development but these two areas had the potential to contain archaeologically significant deposits as the level of previous disturbance in them was not clear. The observation and recording exercise has confirmed that deposits relating to the previous military barracks on the site have been almost completely removed by clearance prior to redevelopment in the 1970's. The truncated nature of one surviving stub of wall in Area 1 serves to highlight the otherwise comprehensive nature of this clearance. No other archaeological features were seen.

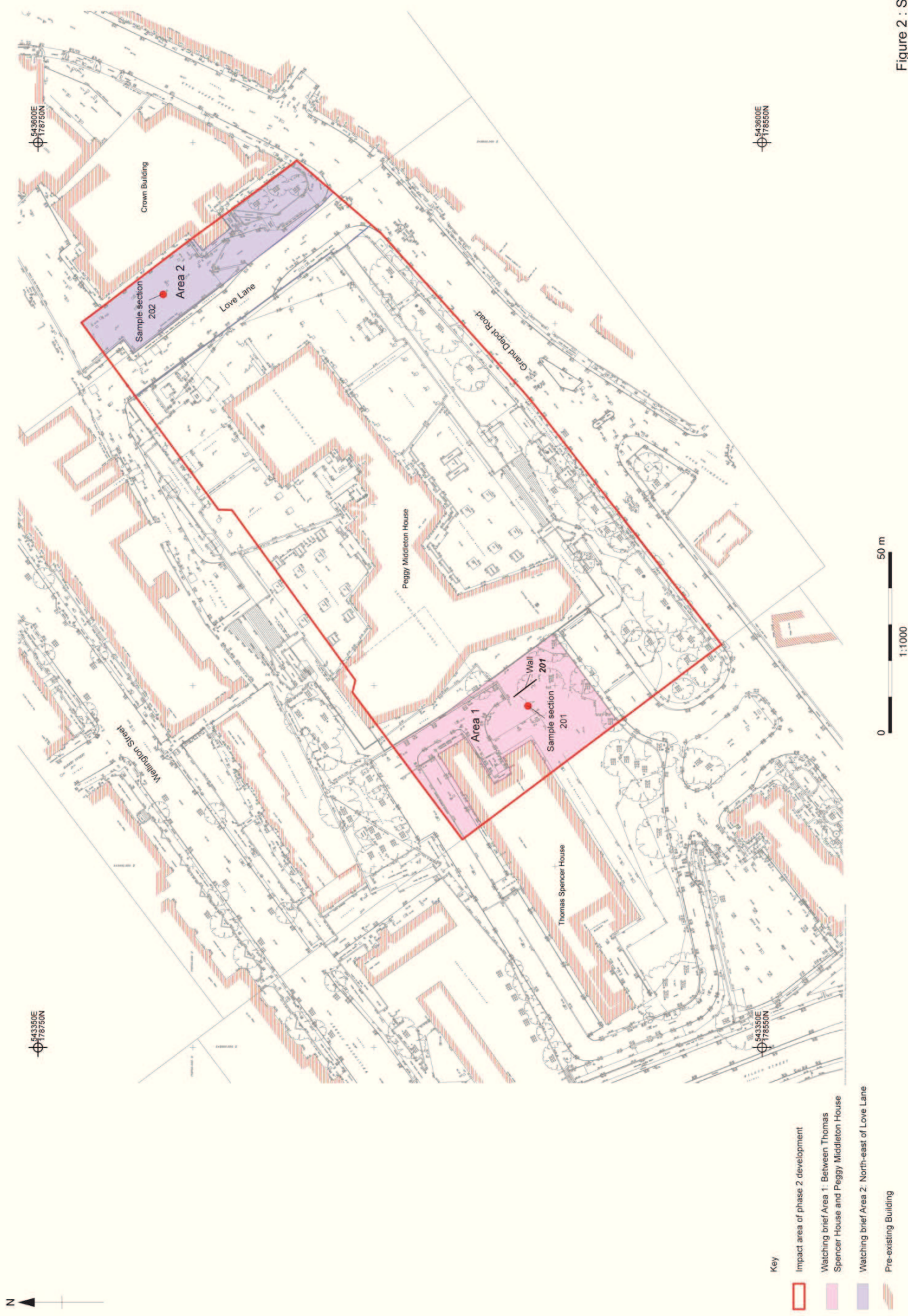
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course.



Scale 1:50,000

Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
© Crown Copyright 1988. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 10005569

Figure 1: Site location



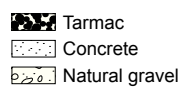
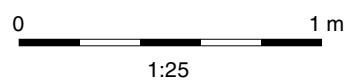
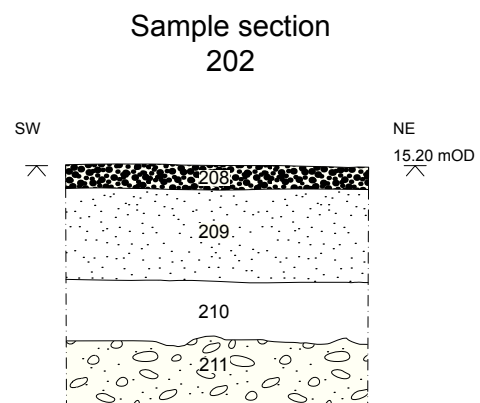
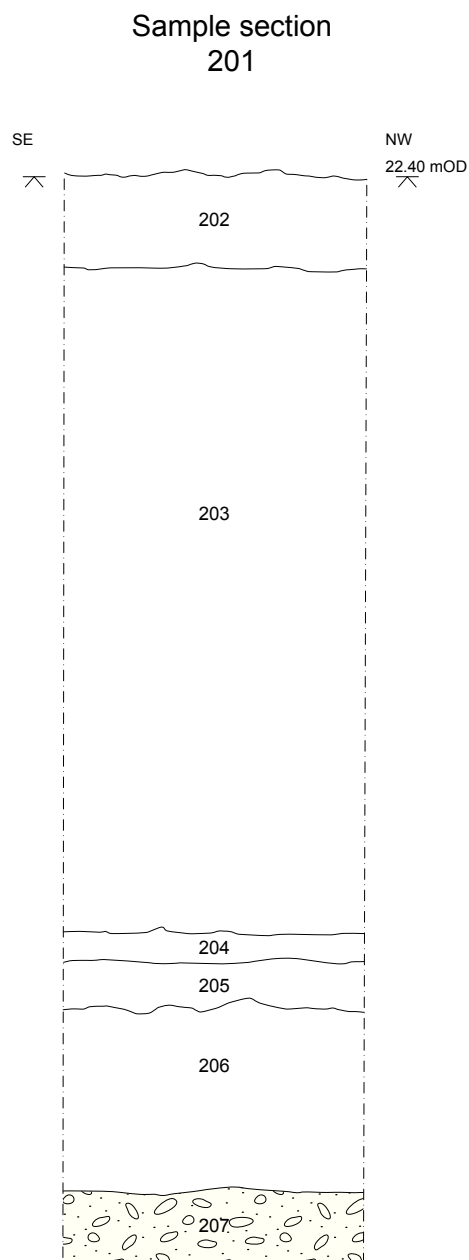


Figure 3: Sample sections



Plate: Wall foundation 201



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*