Archaeological Evaluation at Hounslow Town Primary School, Hounslow, Greater London

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With contributions by Laura Griffin, Elizabeth Pearson and Aidan Woodger

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Hounslow Town Primary School, Hounslow, Greater London (NGR TQ 1441 7584). It was undertaken on behalf of Pick Everard on behalf of the London Borough of Hounslow, who intends to redevelop the site with a new school and residential development.

One single undated feature within the north-west corner of the site probably relates to medieval back plot activity and the survival of a number of pits is evidence of the continuation of activity into the post-medieval period. The area was developed as part of the school in the late 19th century, with further development of the back plots in the 20th century

Two furrows were revealed, running north-east to south-west across the eastern part of the site, confirming the cartographic evidence for arable cultivation in the southern half of the site during the medieval or early post-medieval period.

A well was recorded to the south of the development site is likely to have been associated with a terrace of houses that were built between 1818 and 1865 and subsequently demolished.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Hounslow Town Primary School, Hounslow, Greater London (NGR TQ 1441 7584). It was undertaken on behalf of Pick Everard on behalf of the London Borough of Hounslow, who intends to redevelop the site with a new school and residential development.

The proposed development site is partially located in the Hounslow Archaeological Priority Area and is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application.

No brief was issued for this project, but following correspondence with Gillian King, Archaeology Advisor for the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2016).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014).

2 Aims

The overall aims and scope of the project are:

- To locate archaeological deposits and identify all archaeological remains present within the site, securing an accurate survey of them and thus recording the scale and extent of archaeological remains present;

- To investigate and record archaeological features and recover evidence for dating in order to support understanding of their chronological sequence and development.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led in the field by Tim Cornah (BA (hons.), MSc), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2006 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted James Spry (BA (hons.); MA). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA (hons.); MSc). The report and was prepared by Pete Lovett (BSc (hons)) and Tim Cornah (BA (hons); MSc). Elizabeth Pearson (MSc; ACIfA) contributed the environmental report, and Laura Griffin (BA (hons.); PG Cert; ACIfA) contributed the finds report. Aidan Woodger (BA (hons.); MSc) contributed the timber analysis.

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken on behalf of Pick Everard (Walsh 2015).

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 2015, Ordnance Survey, scale 1:10,000
- 1635 Map of Isleworth Hundred by Moses Glover
- 1766 A Topographical Map of the County of Middlesex by John Rocque
- 1818 Heston Inclosure award and map

- 1818 Isleworth Inclosure award and map
- 1865 1st edition Ordnance Survey, scale 1:2,500
- 1896 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:2,500
- 1915 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:2,500
- 1936 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:2,500
- 1963 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:2,500

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2016). This specified the excavation of ten evaluation trenches. The function of the site as a school necessitated a two part programme of works.

Fieldwork was undertaken between 15th February and 17th February 2016, with further trenching between 4th April and 7th April 2016.

Ten trenches, amounting to about 420m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 2.6ha, representing a sample of 1.6%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012a).

Sondages were excavated in all trenches except 2 and 6 to allow for geoarchaeological recording of the gravels by Andy Howard, Quaternary Scientist. This allowed for a model of the gravels to be produced, assessing the potential for the survival of artefacts and ecofacts within the member (Appendix 3).

On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.5 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

3.6 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4).

3.6.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. Pottery sherds were identified, quantified and dated to period. A spot date was produced for each stratified context (see Table 2). All information was recorded on a *pro forma* Microsoft Access 2007 database.

For the purposes of this report, sherds have not been quantified by specific fabric or form type but general composition of the group has been noted and is discussed below. Pottery fabrics are referenced to the Museum of London Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes (MoLA 2014; http://www.mola.org.uk/resources/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes)

3.7 Environmental archaeology aims and methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson

3.7.1 Project parameters

The environmental project conforms to relevant sections of the Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014), Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (English Heritage 2011), and Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations (AEA 1995).

3.7.2 Aims

The aims of the type of project were determine the state of preservation, type, and quantity of environmental remains recovered, from the samples and information provided. This information will be used to assess the importance of the environmental remains.

3.7.3 Sampling policy

A single sample of 20 litres (Env Table 1) was taken from an undated furrow or gully (1004), and seven timbers recovered from a fill (109). Hand-collected animal bone was also recovered during fieldwork.

3.7.4 Processing and analysis

The sample was processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300μm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residue was scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale. The flot was scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the New Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

The cell structure of the timbers was examined using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope in order to determine the presence of oak and non-oakwood. As all the timbers were oak, no further work was carried out.

3.7.5 Discard policy

Remaining sample material and scanned residue will be discarded after 6 months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

Whilst the methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved, it is noted that access to some of the archaeological deposits observed was not possible. This was due to safety considerations as deep trenches could not always be stepped. Trenches 2, 3 and 4 consisted of alluvial geology with soft deposits above and the sides collapsed in places. These were accessed only where considered safe.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The proposed development site lies on level ground at a height of approximately 15m AOD. The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay Foundation overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Taplow Gravel Formation (BGS 2015).

The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) for Greater London identified the site as *Hounslow Expansio*n and formerly *Farmland.*

The site is also located within Hounslow Archaeological Priority Area (**DLO33007**;). This is described by the GLHER as a *roadside village from the Saxon period, it was the site of a religious house, the Priory of the Brethren of the Holy Trinity, founded in 1296. It developed as an important coaching station on the road to the West*.

The site also lies immediately south of the Staines Road/London Road Archaeological Priority Area (**DLO35691**; Figure 2). This is recorded as the *line of the main Roman Road from Londinium to Silchester and the West. The road has been found in the roadside at Brentford, but its exact route has not been demonstrated elsewhere.*

Prehistoric

The GLHER holds no records of archaeological activity from any of these periods on the proposed development site. Within the wider study area the only recorded evidence of prehistoric activity is limited to find spots, apart from a possible barrow site (**MLO1934**) that is described as 'dubious' by the GLHER.

Palaeolithic finds, including three flints and a scraper (**MLO2182**) are simply recorded as being from 'south of Osterley Field'. No Mesolithic or Neolithic finds have been recorded in the study area. A Bronze Age socketed axe (**MLO2152**) and a hoard (**MLO2163**) are recorded on the GHLER although they are only described as being 'from Hounslow'. Five Iron Age figurines and a small bronze wheel (**MLO2167**) were also found in the 'same field' as the hoard. A single residual retouched flint flake (**MLO72939**) was also found in 1998 during an archaeological evaluation at Thornbury Road, 450m north-east of the proposed development site.

Roman

The site is located approximately 45m south of the A315 London Road/High Street which is thought to be on the alignment of the Roman Road between London and Silchester. The road is an Archaeological Priority Area although the designated area does not extend into the proposed development site. The only evidence of Roman activity recorded on the GLHER in the study area is a silver Roman coin (**MLO2212**) found at Spring Grove Road, c.700m north of the proposed development site.

Medieval

The GLHER holds no records of archaeological activity from the early medieval period on the development site or in the wider study area. Hounslow probably derives its name from the Old English personal name *Hund* and the name *hlaw* meaning tumulus or hill (Institute for Name-Studies 2015). It is first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as Hounslow Hundred which contained the manors of Isleworth and Hampton (Williams and Martin 2002). As Isleworth Manor was divided up during the medieval period the site probably fell under the control of Hounslow Manor which is first recorded in 1296. However the proposed development site is located across the former boundary between Heston and Isleworth parishes which probably represented the fossilised division between two manors.

Medieval activity was identified at High Street (Nos 26a-34 & 44-52; **MLO104881**) during an evaluation (**ELO12632**) in 2012. This site was located on the northern side of High Street, to the north of the west end of the proposed site (*c*.60m). Features included a ditch, dump deposits, a pit and postholes of 13th to 15th century date. Other activity in the area includes a ditch (**MLO65991**) and hearth (**MLO65992**) found during an evaluation in 1995 at Montague Road, *c*.400m west of the proposed site and a vase of medieval coins (**MLO25596**) found on the High Street in 1860, *c*.330m to the west. The GLHER also records a possible moated site (**MLO10576**) at Warton.

Post-medieval

The earliest map of the area to illustrate the site in any detail is Glover's map of 1635.This shows the settlement of Hounslow built up along London Road and High Street and a stream or small river, which later maps show crossing the proposed site, is also shown. Other lanes or tracks are also illustrated including School Road and the split in London Road immediately west of the proposed site, a track to the north which is now Kingsley Road, and another to the east (possibly Bridge Road). Some of the fields to the south of the proposed site can also be identified on the later tithe map. Interestingly on the western part of the site, between a lane (now School Road) and the stream, three buildings are illustrated (**AHA001**). These appear to be labelled *Ansham (Croft?)*, which maybe a misspelling of the family name Awnsham. Richard Awnsham inherited an estate called Woodhall in 1488, which included a house in Isleworth and land in Heston (BHO 2015). The Awnsham family continued to hold land in both Heston and Isleworth until the mid-17th century .

Rocque's plan of Middlesex dated 1754 illustrates the settlement of Hounslow along the main road, the roads and lanes, other buildings, and fields. The course of the stream which crosses the site is not illustrated. The fields in the area are shown as a mixture of pasture and orchards. The buildings recorded on the 1635 plan at the eastern end of the site are no longer illustrated.

Modern

Heston and Isleworth parishes were enclosed around 1818. The *Inclosure* plans record the site across plots of land located to the rear of buildings fronting onto London Road/High Street. These plots are in use as meadow or gardens although their individual field names are not recorded. The proposed development site lies across the boundary of a stream or small river, which was also illustrated by Glover (1635). No buildings are illustrated on either plan within the site boundary.

A *National School (Boys & Girls)*, was opened at the western end of the site in 1831 as a subscription school, and was enlarged at various times during the 19th century. It was transferred to Isleworth School Board during the 1890s.

On the 1896 OS map two new school buildings are depicted to the north of the original school. These are still standing.

The school continued to expand throughout the first half of the 20th Century during which time the eastern part of the site remained as allotments and playing fields. However, by 1963 the current Hounslow Town Primary School had been built. The old school is now a Library. To the north of the site most of the buildings along High Street/London Road, have been demolished to make way for a new shopping centre and block of flats.

An archaeological evaluation (**ELO6273**) at Tankerville Arms on the corner of School Road and High Street, *c.*15m west of the proposed site, did not identify any evidence of archaeological activity (**MLO97898**). As noted above an archaeological evaluation north of the site identified evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity (**ELO12632**). There have been no other significant archaeological works in the vicinity of the site.

The western part of the site lies in Hounslow Archaeological Priority Area. Archaeological Priority Areas are not designated heritage assets but they are identified as areas where, according to existing information, there is significant known archaeological interest or particular potential for new discoveries.

4.2 Current land-use

The central and eastern part of the proposed development site is currently occupied by Hounslow Town Primary School buildings and playing fields. The western part of the site is currently in use a car park.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches recorded are shown in (Figure 2). The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural was observed at a depth of 0.2m to 0.4m below ground surface in Trench 6, where it was compact yellow orange sandy gravel. The same gravels were also seen in Trench 8 at a depth of between 0.68 and 0.94m below the surface. In trenches 7, 9 and 10 the natural was compact mid greyish brown silty clay, at depths of between 0.7m and 1m below current ground level.

Trenches 1 to 5 showed significant variation within the natural deposits. These consisted of alluvial clays with bandings of sand and gravels. Within trench 1 a layer of yellow sand was seen at a depth of 0.85m from the current ground level and extending to a depth of 1.58m. Below this grey gravels were observed to a depth of 2.70m. Within Trench 2, a yellow sand deposit was seen at the southern, with alluvial blue clay seen at the northern end.

Natural deposits within trenches 3 to 5 were of alluvial nature and consisted of clays, though with some yellow sand banding within Trench 3, these were seen at depth of 1.02m. Natural deposits were at a depth of 1.04m from the surface in Trench 4 and 1.21m within the southern end of Trench 5, decreasing to 0.78m at its northern end.

Natural deposits are further described and analysed below (Howard 2016, Appendix 3)

5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits

Only feature [110] is assigned to this phase. This was observed stratigraphically below natural alluvial sand deposit (104) within Trench 1 and consisted of a broadly round cut about 1.30m in length and 0.85m wide. The feature was only partially seen within a sondage into the natural deposits, so its full plan, extent and depth were not ascertained. Similarly, the deposits could not be cleaned, securely sampled or closely recorded due to the depth of the trench and the fact it could only be excavated by machine.

The feature had steep, but not vertical sides (Figure 8, *Plate **1***) and was seen at a depth of 1.60m below the surface, extending to 2.70m. It was filled by deposit (109), a blue grey clay. This contained a number of worked timber in a upright position, forming a quarter circle within the feature. No evidence for revetment or support was seen within these timbers, so it is possible that they belonged to a cask, as discussed below.

5.1.3 Phase 4: Medieval and Post-Medieval deposits

A north-east to south-west aligned furrow [603] was revealed in Trench 6 (*Plate **4***), whilst a similarly orientated furrow was excavated in Trench 10 [1005] (*Plate **2***). Here it was very shallow, only 0.05m deep, but with occasional CBM fragments within its fill (FIG).

A small pit or ditch terminus (704) emerged from the north-west side of Trench 7. This was 0.25m deep and yielded pottery and CBM fragments, suggesting it was a small rubbish pit rather than a terminus. (Figure 9, *Plate **5***)

Within Trench 8, four large features were observed, of which two were excavated. These features had variable sides with a clear sense of alignment in plan but variable profiles. Feature [809] (Figure 10, *Plate **6***) was 3.55m wide and 0.73m deep whilst feature [814] (Figure 10, *Plate **7***) was 3.92m in width and 0.80m in depth. Whilst the interpretation of these features as ditches cannot be entirely ruled out, an interpretation of quarry pitting for the extraction of the sand and gravels seems more likely given the natural substrate within this trench and their lack of obvious alignment when excavated.

Within Trench 5, a single small gully feature was observed running in a north-south direction [505]. This contained CBM fragments of this date, and aligned broadly with the orchard shown on this area of the site in 1754. It was therefore interpreted as a drainage feature. (Figure 9, *Plate **8***)

Trench 4 contained a single cut feature that extended across the trench and contained post-medieval material [409] (Figure 8, *Plate **10***). The function of this feature was unclear. A further round pit feature was seen at the northern end of Trench 2 that contained post-medieval material but was not excavated. Within trench 1, three small pit features were excavated [106, 108, 117] (Figure 8, *Plate **11***). Whilst these were clearly all post-medieval, the earliest of these, pit [108], contained early post-medieval pottery, as well as a single medieval piece that is likely to have been residual. The function of all these latter pits was consistent with refusal disposal, as may be expected within the back plot area around Trench 1. The eastern half of this trench was truncated by a large feature [127=129] which could not be closely investigated. This is likely to date to this or the subsequent phase.

5.1.4 Phase 5: Modern deposits

A brick well was partially revealed in Trench 6 (605). Constructed of half bricks measuring 105mm wide x 70mm deep, they were probably all handmade; none were obviously machine made. They were set in a mid yellowy orange sand bond. Whilst the well was not fully excavated, a sample of finds were retrieved from the upper fill, all of which were indicative of dumped domestic waste as part of a closure deposit. (Figure 5, *Plate **12***)

Within Trench 2, brick footings aligned broadly north to south were seen (Figure 3). These were split broadly into two phases, structures (202) and (203). Both of these survived only as foundations, as shown by slates on their top that made up a damp course. Structure (202) measured a total length of 16.8m. It was constructed of yellow machine made bricks that were frogged and stamped with "FD". The dimensions of these were 230mm by 115mm by 75mm. This structure had splayed foundations that in turn sat on a concrete plinth wall. The general form of this structure appear to be an external wall running in a north to south direction, with some room divisions on the western side. It also contained a further wall running to the east. At its southern end, one later concrete floor was recorded (Plate 14).

Structure (203) measured 8.1m in length and was made of the same bricks as the previous building though was clearly later as it abutted Structure (202). It was of broadly the same construction, also having splayed footings and sitting on a concrete plinth wall. The overall plan of this structure was less clear, as it consisted of four sections of wall within the same phase with no clear evidence of internal or external space. Both of these structures relate to a school building shown in this position on the historic mapping that was built between 1865 and 1896, extended on its eastern side before 1915 and demolished after 1963.

Within Trench 1, three further walls were seen (Figure 3). Wall (118) (*Plate **15***) was constructed of red brick with dimensions of 220mm by 100mm by 50mm. These bricks appeared handmade and were not frogged. The base of this was not reached. It aligned with a former plot boundary on the 1896 OS map (Figure 11).

Structure (121) (*Plate **16***) was also brick built, but using yellow brick with dimensions of 220mm by 100mm by 65mm and ran parallel to (118) though was constructed on a concrete plinth wall. This wall also aligns with a former plot boundary. The third structure was a concrete footing (125) that was parallel to the other walls but clearly related to building first shown on this spot in 1963.

A small modern ditch ran across Trench 6, whilst a number of features in Trench 10 can be attributed to modern disturbance. Whilst three of these are probably discrete features, four appear to be the remains of wheel tracks associated with a mechanical excavator.

The subsoil is present in trenches 7 to 10. It was a dark blackish brown clay silt, between 0.35m and 0.7m thick. It contained CBM and pottery fragments, and in places was contaminated with

lenses redeposited natural. In Trench 10 the subsoil was sealed by a modern made ground layer, up to 0.35m thick.

The uppermost layer was a topsoil or turf layer, between 0.3m and 0.4m thick within trenches 6, 7, 9 and 10. Trenches 1 to 5 and 8 were excavated through areas covered by tarmac. All of these trenches have been levelled to some extent with modern rubble layers up to 0.60m deep, followed by compressed gravels immediately below the tarmac.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin

The site assemblage totalled 285 finds (weighing 12.5kg) from 36 contexts (Tables 1 and 2). Level of preservation was good with pottery sherds displaying low levels of surface abrasion and having an exceptionally high average weight of 44.9g.

The majority of the finds assemblage recovered comprised domestic refuse dating to the post-medieval and modern periods, with 34 contexts having a *terminus post quem* of 19th-20th century on the basis of the finds retrieved. Small amounts of late medieval/early post medieval transitional material were also identified, hinting at earlier activity in the vicinty.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
late medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	10	686
late medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic		tile	3	37
late medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic		pot	8	746
late medieval/post-medieval	ceramic		cbm	1	64
post-medieval	ceramic		brick	2	26
post-medieval	ceramic		cbm	1	9
post-medieval	ceramic		pipe	7	22
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	40	1795
post-medieval	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	1	38
post-medieval	ceramic		tile	2	187
post-medieval	metal	iron	nail	1	31
late post-medieval/modern	ceramic		cbm	1	33
late post-medieval/modern	ceramic		tile	3	47
late post-medieval/modern	ceramic		tile	2	76
modern	ceramic		cbm	1	70
modern	ceramic		pot	133	5581
modern	glass		vessel	30	1994
modern	glass		window	10	114
modern			window	1	3
undated	slag	slag(Fe)		1	6
undated	metal	iron	?nail	1	7
undated			coal	2	6
undated	stone		flint	1	3
undated	slag		fuel ash	1	24

undated	organic	shell	oyster	1	26

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been spot-dated and quantified. For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, see Table 2.

Post-medieval

Two contexts (108 and 128) could be dated to the post-medieval period on the basis of the finds. The finds discussed in this section also included pottery and roof tile commonly classified as 'transitional' (ie late medieval–early post-medieval).

A total of 13 sherds of a sandy redware with dark greenish brown glaze were classed as transitional wares dating 16th–17th century. Identifiable forms included flared bowls, a pipkin and a jar/cooking pot similar to the form of those more commonly seen in North Devon gravel-tempered ware. Two sherds were particularly distinctive for having decoration in the form of a thumb-impressed flower design. Post-medieval redwares (PMRE) are known to have been made at various production sites in the London area between 1500 and 1700, including Kingston and Cheam.

Other pottery of similar date included sherds of tin-glazed ware (TGW), probably also of London production. The majority were undiagnostic undecorated sherds, having a plain tin-glaze with a bluish tinge. However, two vessel forms were identified: a small flanged dish with painted blue decoration and a chamber pot with a pinkish glaze, both from context 108. All sherds had a crazed glaze, typical of this fabric type.

Remaining sherds of note came from a flanged dish with an internal orange/brown glaze and external red slip. The form and glaze were reminiscent of Metropolitan slipwares but without the slip decoration, and were dated to the 17th-18th century.

Indeed the pottery from one pit (108) was of particular note, forming a good group of 16th–17th century date, including tin-glazed ware, post-medieval redwares and early stoneware, including one base sherd of possible Westerwald production (WEST).

Other finds of similar date included flat roof tile, some fragments of which displayed small nail/peg holes, and clay pipe stems. The flat roof tile is of a long-lived form which cannot generally be closely dated.

Modern

All remaining finds were of late 18th to 20th century date and consisted primarily of domestic pottery and bottle glass. The pottery included a variety of sherds of modern glazed wares including creamware (CREA), refined whitewares with underglaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW) and yellow wares (YELL) of 19th century date. Small quantities of other refined wares were also present and included transfer printed 'flow blue' (TPW FLOW) of 19th century date, porcelain (ENPO) and underglaze-painted white wares (REFW PNTD). Where diagnostic, these sherds largely came from domestic tablewares, primarily plates, dishes and cups, many of which were transfer-decorated. Some of these wares may have been products of the nearby Isleworth pottery works which is known to have produced porcelain and creamwares. The pottery moved to premises in Hanworth Road, Hounslow in 1830, and recent excavations on

that site have revealed considerable quantities of porcelain, kiln furniture and slag (Blakelock 2005).

In addition, a variety of later English stonewares were also retrieved. These consisted primarily of ginger beer bottle and marmalade/jam jar forms. Although the bottles themselves were of Nottingham (Lovatt and Lovatt) or Derby (Bourne Eastwood) production, many were either stamped or printed with the names of local businesses, the most common being 'Gordon M W Co Ltd, Hounslow, and Gordon-Jones Ltd, Twickenham.

In addition to the domestic pottery, a notable amount of unslipped redware flowerpot was also present. Rim sherds were mainly of the collared form, indicating a 19th–20th century date for the group. It is possible that these pots are also the products of the Isleworth Pottery works which is known to have produced flowerpots in addition to porcelain and china.

Vessel glass consisted primarily of drinks bottles, including one from a local mineral water works. In addition, there was also a near-complete bell-shaped ink bottle in a pale green glass and a small number of pearlescent glass fragments, thought to have come from decorative items such as vases.

Perhaps the most unusual find from the site was the base of a late Victorian barristers wig stand (context 102). This was made of heavy highly fired ceramic with a glossy black glaze and stamped on the base with 'Wells and Son, 63 Wood St, London'. Parallels for this particular model (seen on a London auction website) indicate that it would have had a brass pole topped with a wooden finial.

Remaining material of modern date consisted of abraded ceramic building material and fragments of window glass.

Undated find of possible significance

A piece of flint was retrieved from a modern levelling layer (context 102). The piece has possible evidence of working along one edge but due to the high level of post-depositional damage, it is not possible to confirm this identification (R Hedge, pers comm).

6 Assessment of potential

Due to the urban location of the site, resultant depth of stratigraphy and intercutting features, residuality within the assemblage is high. However, the identification and spot-dating of the finds retrieved indicates activity from at least the late 15th/early 16th century onwards.

More detailed analysis of the finds and in particular, the pottery fabrics and forms, would further refine the date ranges indicated by spot dating and may allow identification of any locally produced ceramics.

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)	date range start	date range end	spot date
102	ceramic		pot	1	37			19C
	ceramic		pot	1	201		19C	
	ceramic		pot	1	126	16C	17C	
	ceramic		pot	1	30	17C	18C	

	glass		vessel	2	63			
	glass		vessel	1	25		19C	
106	ceramic		pot	1	166			
	ceramic		pot	1	28	17C	18C	
	ceramic		pot	15	726	19C	20C	
	ceramic		pot	1	77	L16C	17C	19-20C
	ceramic		pot	1	30	L17C	18C	
	ceramic		pot	1	8	L18C	20C	
	ceramic		pot	8	108	M17C	18C	
	glass		window	2	69			
108	ceramic		pot	1	16			
	ceramic		pot	18	1070	16C	17C	16-17C
	ceramic		pot	4	412	L16C	17C	
114	ceramic		pot	1	12			
	ceramic		pot	1	472	L19C	E20C	E20C
	ceramic		pot	2	2	M18C	L18C	
115	ceramic		pot	1	256	16C	18C	
	ceramic		pot	4	84	19C	20C	
	ceramic		pot	1	2	M17C	18C	19-20C
	glass		vessel	1	2		19C	
	glass		window	2	9			
	slag	slag(Fe)		1	6			
116	ceramic		brick	1	128	19C	20C	
	ceramic		pot	1	8			
	ceramic		pot	2	26	19C	20C	19-20C
	glass		vessel	3	36	19C	20C	
	glass		window	1	7	19C	20C	
126	ceramic		brick	1	51			
	ceramic		pot	1	4	M18C	L18C	
	glass		window	1	1			L18C
	organic	shell	oyster	1	26			
	ceramic		cbm	1	64			
128	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	4	392			late med/post-med
204	ceramic		pot	1	5	L18C	20C	
	ceramic		tile	1	62			20C
206	ceramic		pot	1	3	19C	20C	
	ceramic		tile	1	83			19-20C
	ceramic		brick	3	35	19C	20C	
	ceramic		tile	1	13			
404	glass		vessel	6	106	19C	20C	19-20C
	stone		flint	1	3			
406	ceramic		pot	1	1	19C	20C	

	ceramic		tile	3	47			19-20C
407	ceramic		brick	2	26			18C
	ceramic		pot	1	5	16C	18C	
	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	3	93	13C	18C	
	ceramic		tile	1	104			
	metal	iron	nail	1	31			
501	ceramic		pot	2	989		E20C	20C
	ceramic		pot	1	554		L19C	
	ceramic		pot	2	582	L19C	20C	
	ceramic		pot	2	283	L19C	E20C	
	glass		vessel	1	100		20C	
	glass		vessel	2	564	L19C	20C	
	glass		vessel	2	771	L19C	E20C	
502	ceramic		pot	1	89	c1825		19-E20C
	ceramic		pot	1	281	L19C	E20C	
600	ceramic		pot	4	48	L18C	20C	20C
604	ceramic		pipe	1	1			19-20C
	ceramic		pot	1	15	18C	19C	
	ceramic		pot	7	40	19C	20C	
	ceramic		pot	7	37	L18C	20C	
	glass		vessel	1	11			
	glass		vessel	1	1	19C	20C	
	metal	iron	?nail	1	7			
701	ceramic		pipe	1	2			19-20C
	ceramic		pot	6	53	19C	20C	
	glass		vessel	1	7	19C	20C	
703	ceramic		pot	1	12	18C	19C	19-20C
	ceramic		pot	3	2	18C	20C	
	ceramic		pot	4	39	19C	20C	
	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	1	134			
805	ceramic		pot	2	13	19C	20C	19-20C
	glass		vessel	1	13			
807	ceramic		pot	1	16			19-20C
	glass		vessel	1	1	19C	20C	
808	ceramic		pot	1	18	19C	20C	19-20C
	ceramic		tile	2	24			
811	ceramic		pot	1	8			20C
	ceramic		pot	1	1	L18C	20C	
	ceramic		tile	1	14		18C	
	glass		window	1	24	20C		
813	ceramic		pipe	2	7			
	ceramic		pot	1	17			

	ceramic		pot	2	51	16C	17C	19-20C
	ceramic		pot	1	26	19C	20C	
	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	2	67			
816	ceramic		pot	3	1		L18C	L18C
817	ceramic		pipe	1	1			19-20C
	ceramic		pot	9	88	19C	20C	
	ceramic		pot	1	1	L18C	20C	
901	ceramic		pot	6	91	19C	20C	19-20C
1000	ceramic		pot	3	128	16C	18C	19-20C
	ceramic		pot	6	31	19C	20C	
	glass		vessel	1	255		19C	
1002	ceramic		cbm	1	70			19-20C
	ceramic		pot	5	485	19C	20C	
	ceramic		pot	2	20	L18C	20C	
	glass		vessel	1	2			
1006	ceramic		cbm	1	33			19-20C
	ceramic		pot	6	73	19C	20C	
	glass		vessel	1	14			
	glass		window	1	1			
1008	ceramic		pot	1	3	19C	20C	19-20C
1010	ceramic		pipe	2	11			19-20C
	ceramic		pot	3	21	19C	20C	
	ceramic		pot	1	9	L18C		
	glass		window	1	2			
1012	ceramic		pot	4	59	19C	20C	19-20C
	glass		vessel	3	9	18C	20C	
1014	ceramic		pot	1	6		L18C	19-20C
	ceramic		pot	1	11	16C	17C	
	ceramic		pot	2	4	19C	20C	
	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	1	38			
	slag		fuel ash	1	24			
1016	ceramic		cbm	1	9			L19C
	glass		vessel	1	14		L19C	
1018	ceramic		pot	2	2	19C	20C	19-20C
	glass		window	1	1			

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6.1 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

Hand-collected animal bone

A small assemblage of animal bone, consisting of 16 fragments (651g) was recovered during fieldwork. Juvenile cattle bone (including butchered bone), small mammal and bird bone was identified. Preservation was good, indicating that, although the assemblage is small, further excavation is likely to yield high quality data, with for example, unfused bones and butchery evidence.

Furrow/gully (1004)
Only two items of charred plant remains were recorded, which consisted of a single grain of charred wheat, thought to be emmer or spelt wheat (*Triticum cf dicoccum/spelta*) and a single unidentified root fragment. Clinker/coal fragments were also relatively abundant.

Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

Little can be interpreted from these remains, although the presence of possible emmer or spelt wheat suggests pre-early medieval agricultural processing.

Timbers from fill (109)
Timbers 109A to C were selected to determine species. All three timbers were identified as oak (*Quercus robur/petraea*), and were radially converted.

Significance
Environmental remains from a single bulk sample were of low significance for interpretation of the site. However, waterlogged timbers, although fragmented, demonstrate the potential for recovering organic material, and hand-collected animal bone, although present in small quantities was well-preserved.

context	sample	charred plant	uncharred plant	artefacts
1004	1	occ	abt*	occ coal/clinker, cbm

*Env Table 1: Summary of environmental remains; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably intrusive*

context	material class	material subtype	Count	weight(g)	Feature type	Period	comments
102	bone	animal bone	2	567	Modern Layer	Modern	Cattle/horse tibia and ?femur
1012	bone	animal bone	12	61	Modern feature	Modern	unfused pelvis & metapodial, 3 X bird bones all well preserved
1014	bone	animal bone	1	20	Modern feature	Modern	unfused epiphysis, other end sawn
1016	bone	animal bone	1	3	Modern feature	Modern	?rodent jaw
Total			**16**	**651**			

Env Table 2: Hand-collected animal bone

6.2 Timber analysis, by Aidan Woodger

Seven timbers were recovered from a deep archaeological feature excavated by machine and assigned to fill (109). All of the pieces are fragmentary with damaged caused by the method of recovery. Context is also unclear as *in situ* recording was not possible. The wood appeared to come from the top of a structure the base of which was not encountered (Tim Cornah *pers. Comm.*). Samples have not been sawn across the growth rings hence ring counts are approximate. With these provisos, conclusions from off-site examination and recording are presented. Following cleaning three (3) of the pieces appeared to merit detailed recording. Recording was carried out on *pro forma* context sheets, only measured sketches have been made. All of the wood appears to be fairly close grained oak.

(109A) is a 31cm long by 9cm wide by 1.5cm thick (greatest dimensions) well-preserved plank in poor condition. The method of conversion was probably radial cleaving (i.e. splitting with axe and wedges) with only heartwood retained. There are signs of axe stop marks at approximately 45º to the grain. At one end is a possible groove 0.5cm deep of which only the upper part remains. There are approximately 35 growth rings across the width (i.e. about 4 per cm). There is a slight curvature of about 1mm across the width from centre to edge. One face it quite well finished whilst the other is rough with deep axe-cut indentations. Even the smoother side shows some axe cuts indicating that it has not been finely finished after rough dressing.

(109B) is a 36cm by 4cm by 1.2cm well-preserved plank in poor condition. The wood was radially cleft heartwood. There are signs of axe stop marks at approximately 45º to the grain. There are approximately 12 growth rings (3 per cm). At one end is a shallow scalloped depression (a possible howel) approximately 6cm wide across the width. Near the base of this is a groove 1cmm wide by 0.5cm deep across approximately 3cm long. The tip of the timber may have a bevelled end.

(109C) is a 16.5cm by 8cm by 1.3cm plank with one curved end consistent with a portion of circular timber of diameter 42cm. The wood appears to be radially cleft oak. The best preserved area has about 2 growth rings per cm. The heartwood-sapwood boundary and at least one sapwood ring are preserved making this the best candidate for radio carbon dating, though insufficient for dendrochronology. The remaining four pieces are fragments no greater than 10cmm by 6cm by 1.5cm having similar characteristics to (109A-C) consistent with origins in similar artefacts.

(109A-B) show features (conversion, possible howel, croze groove and chime bevel) consistent with origins in a coopered vessel or vessels (Allen 1995, 2, Figure 3). The choice of a close-grained, slow-grown timber is also typical of cask or bucket staves. (109C) shows some features consistent with a composite headpiece (base or end piece) but the absence of bevelling around the edge may indicate another use.

7 Synthesis

Natural deposits were analysed by during test pitting, detailed results of which are given below (Appendix 3). They were recorded as fine-grained inorganic alluvium, interpreted as postglacial (Holocene) in origin, as well as sands and gravels of both Holocene and Pleistocene date; the former sands and gravels were thin units interbedded between fine-grained alluvium whilst the latter rest on sediments interpreted as bedrock. All the natural sediments were overlain by a veneer of made ground deposits. None of the postglacial alluvial deposits were organic-rich and therefore it has low palaeoenvironmental potential. No cultural or environmental remains associated with Palaeolithic contexts were recorded within the sands and gravels across the site. In contrast, a possible feature and structural remains were recorded in the western area within the postglacial alluvium (Howard 2016). Within Trench 1 an undated pit contained the remains of a possible cask. This was stratigraphically located below alluvial sand, which was in turn cut by Post-medieval pit features. It is probable that this feature is associated medieval back plots as depicted

on Glovers' map of 1635, but an earlier date cannot be ruled out. The purpose of the pit is not known though it may have been a feature set into the ground to contain water.

The two furrows within Trenches 6 and 10, both aligned north-east to south-west, are evidence of arable agriculture as depicted on Glovers' map of 1635 on which the southern half of the site is shown as an arable field. By the mid-18th century the site is shown as being divided between pastoral and orchard activity. A further small feature in the centre of the site is likely to have been a drainage feature related to an orchard seen on Rocque's map of 1754.

The well within Trench 6 was almost certainly associated with the terraced houses that first appear on the 1865 Ordnance Survey map. Dating of closure is suggested to have been within the 19th to 20th centuries, as based on the finds from the backfill. This terrace exists on the 1936 OS map, but is obviously gone before the school is built in the 1960s. The small rubbish pit within Trench 7 that was excavated lay beyond the limits of the terrace of houses. It may still be associated with the occupation of the houses, though it may as easily be the result of a farmers waste practices.

In the north east corner of the site, some quarry pitting was seen cutting into sand and gravel substrate. This area was shown in agricultural use in 1635, but as part of a back plot area in 1754, subsequently returning to agricultural use by 1818. By 1865, it is shown laid out with paths, and appears to have been a garden so it is likely that the quarrying activity was carried out before this date. Further pits were also recorded in the western area. These were all dated to the post-medieval era, though one pit within Trench 1 contained some residual late-medieval material culture. Trench 1 was located within the back plots seen throughout the historic mapping. It is likely that the further post-medieval pits seen within Trenches 2, 3 and 4 also related to high street occupation.

A number of brick structures were seen in Trenches 1 and 2. Those within Trench 2 related to a school building first seen on the 1896 OS map, and extended by the time of the 1915 OS map. Two of the walls seen in Trench 1 relate to former plot boundaries, and the remainder is likely to have been part of a structure built between 1936 and 1963.

7.1 Research frameworks

The possible medieval remains within Trench 1 fit to some degree in the research agendas outlined in *A research framework for London archaeology* (2002). "Understanding the nature and extent of urban development, and the social and economic relationship of the core to its region" is an identified research question within a medieval context, and the probable back plot activity identified within this project may feed into this.

8 Significance

8.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The archaeological remains recorded during the evaluation were predominantly post-medieval in date. The well and refuse pit in Trenches 6 and 7 are indicative of back yard activity, both containing an assemblage of post-Medieval domestic waste. The well is almost certainly associated with the row of terraced houses built along the southern edge of the development site. Post-Medieval refuse disposal was also seen in Trenches 1 and 2, as well as sand and gravel extraction in Trench 8.

The potential furrows discovered during the evaluation are probably remnants of medieval strip field agriculture associated with the settlement of Hounslow. The feature within Trench 1 contained a possible cask or bucket, as shown by worked timbers. It may have dated to the Medieval period and would demonstrate the use of this area as a back plot at this time.

A number of walls also represented some of the earliest development of the school in the late 19th century and the 20th century development of the former back plot area.

8.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

Only one archaeological feature identified may be relevant to research questions outlined in *A research framework for London archaeology* (2002), though its level of importance will only be confirmed after further dating. The survival of furrows in the landscape could inform the discussion of the agricultural activity in the area; the presumption has been for orchards and pasture land. The post-Medieval wells and pits would appear to exist within a known backyard plots, as shown by the cartographic evidence. The cartographic evidence also shows the school and 20th century buildings, which were identified during this project.

8.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The archaeological deposits in the east of the site are sealed beneath between 0.65m and 0.9m of overburden. The single trench excavated in the south of the site has a variable depth of 0.2m to 0.4m of covering material above archaeological deposits. As such, this area is more vulnerable to truncation. The density of remains is low for most of the eastern half of the site, with a concentration of quarry pitting in its north-east corner.

Within the western half of the site, the remains of the former school in Trench 2 were directly below the tarmac surfaces, at a depth of about 0.10m whilst the walls in Trench 1 were at a depth of about 0.20m. The post-medieval pits were located at a depth of between 0.58 and1.0m whilst the undated feature within the Trench 1 was located at a depth of 1.76m. Whilst a number of the post-medieval pits were seen over Trenches 1 to 4, the main concentration was in Trench 1, along with the undated feature below these. Whilst the area around Trench 1 is likely to contain the most potential for significant archaeology, it is worth noting the significant Post-medieval or modern feature for half the extent of the trench which is likely to have truncated further potential features.

9 The impact of the development

9.1 Impacts during construction

During the construction phase there will be particular impacts, most notably the excavation of footings and service trenches which have the potential to affect features noted during the evaluation and associated features.

9.2 Impacts on sustainability

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

10 Recommendations

In order to mitigate the impacts identified above, it is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken on groundworks carried out within areas of the site with potential for the survival of significant archaeological remains; specifically the western part of the site in the vicinity of Trenches 1-6.

The scope and specification of mitigation works will be agreed with the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).

Any site investigation works or watching briefs required, would be concluded by production of an archaeological report (and appropriate publication) and a project archive to be deposited at a local museum.

11 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Hounslow Town Primary School, Hounslow, Greater London (NGR TQ 1441 7584). It was undertaken on behalf of Pick Everard on behalf of the London Borough of Hounslow, who intends to redevelop the site with a new school and residential development.

One single undated feature within the north-west corner of the site probably relates to medieval back plot activity and the survival of a number of pits is evidence of the continuation of activity into the post-medieval period. The area was developed as part of the school in the late 19th century, with further development of the back plots in the 20th century

Two furrows were revealed, running north-east to south-west across the eastern part of the site, confirming the cartographic evidence for arable cultivation in the southern half of the site during the medieval or early post-medieval period.

A well was recorded to the south of the development site is likely to have been associated with a terrace of houses that were built between 1818 and 1865 and subsequently demolished.

12 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Robert Munro of Pick Everard, John Reynolds of Hounslow Highways, the caretakers of Hounslow Primary School and Gillian King of Heritage England.

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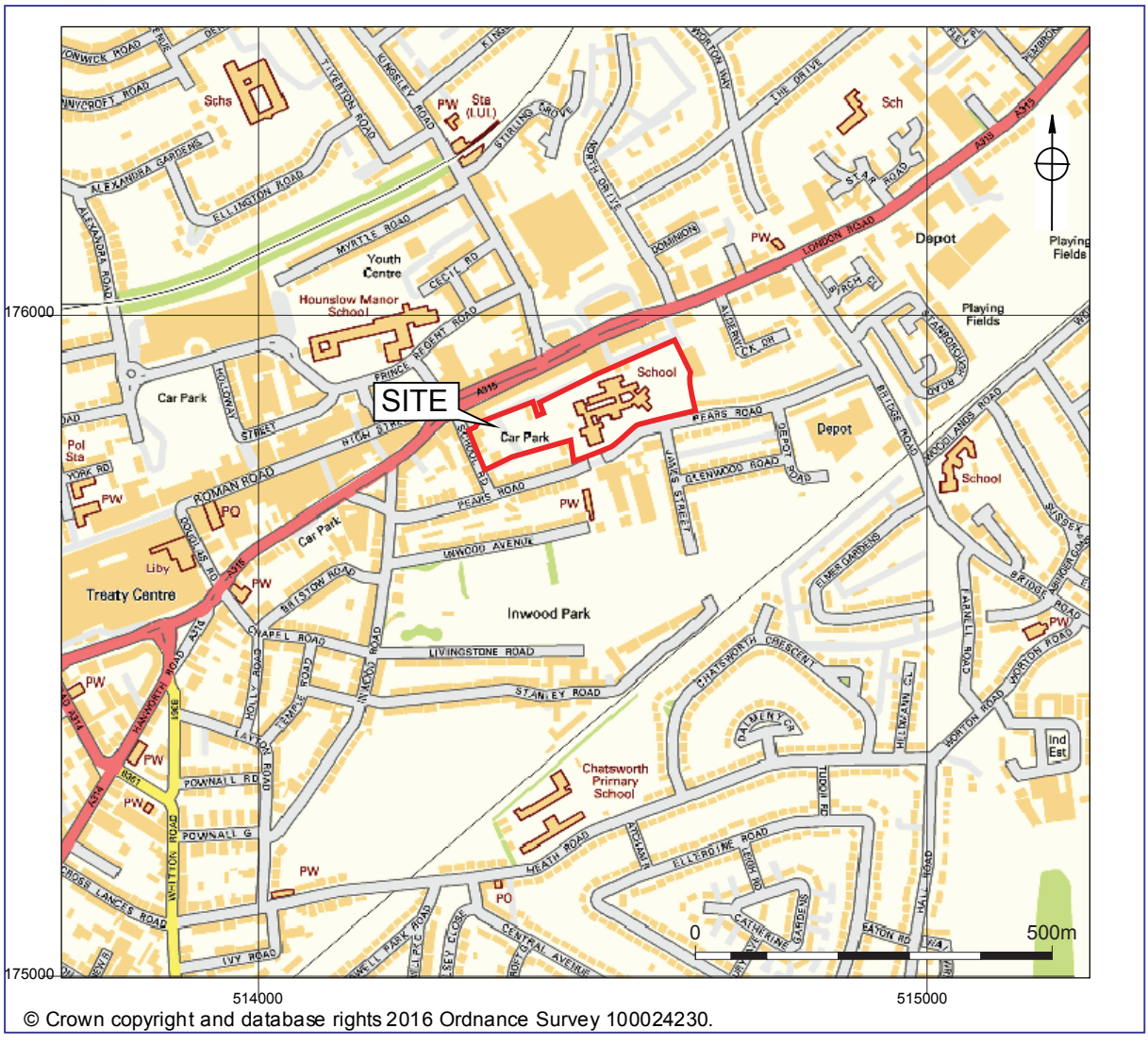
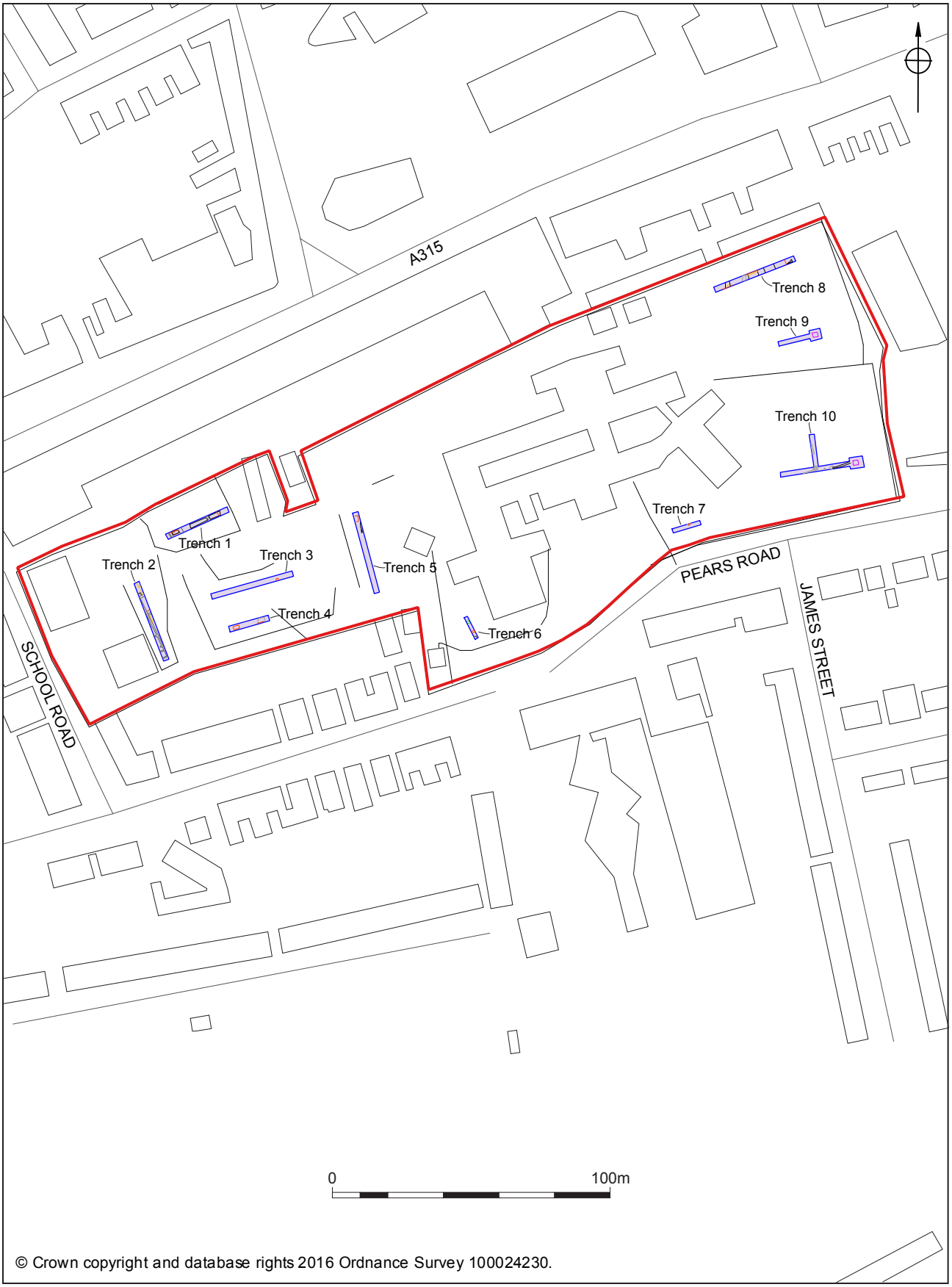
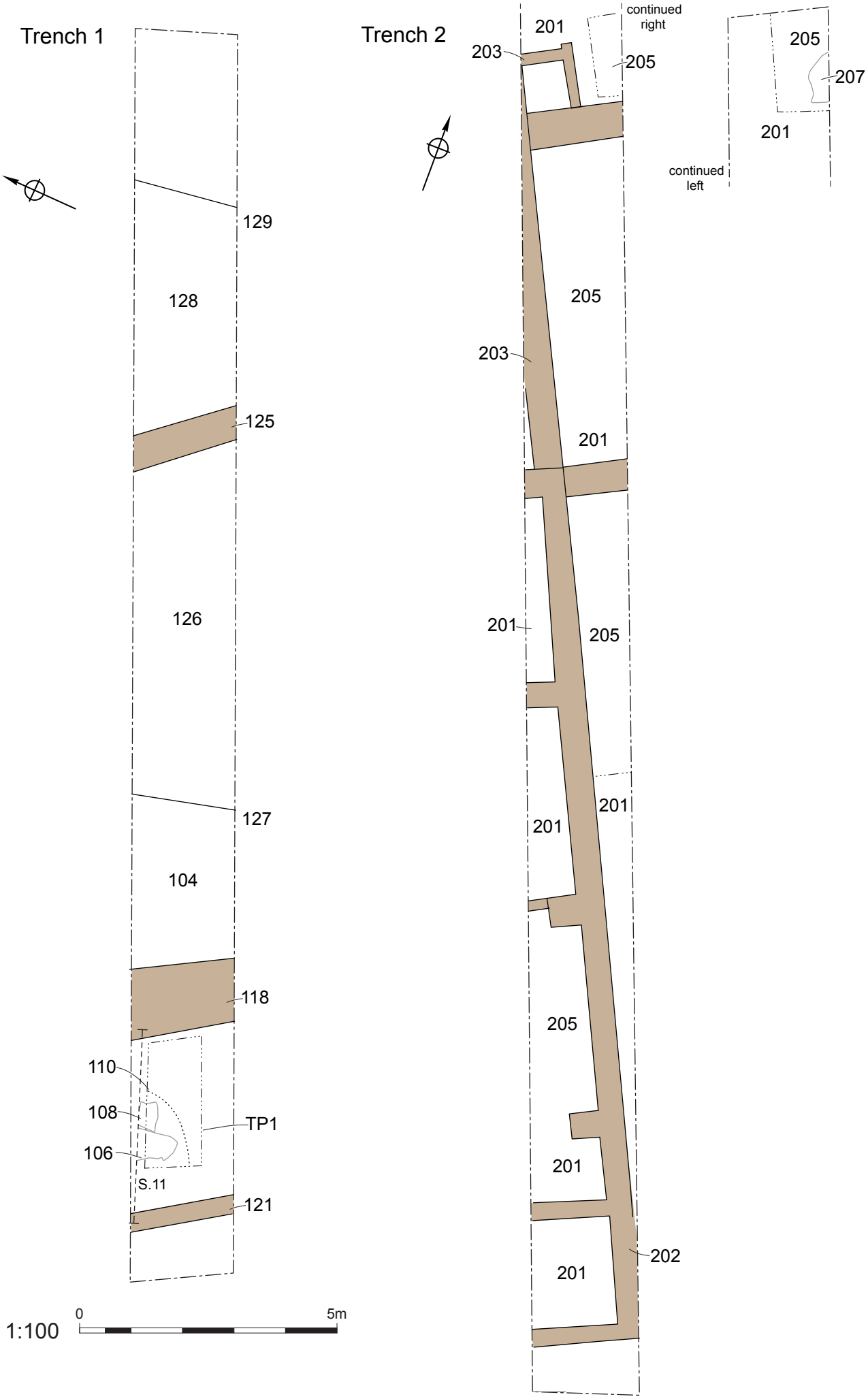
Figures



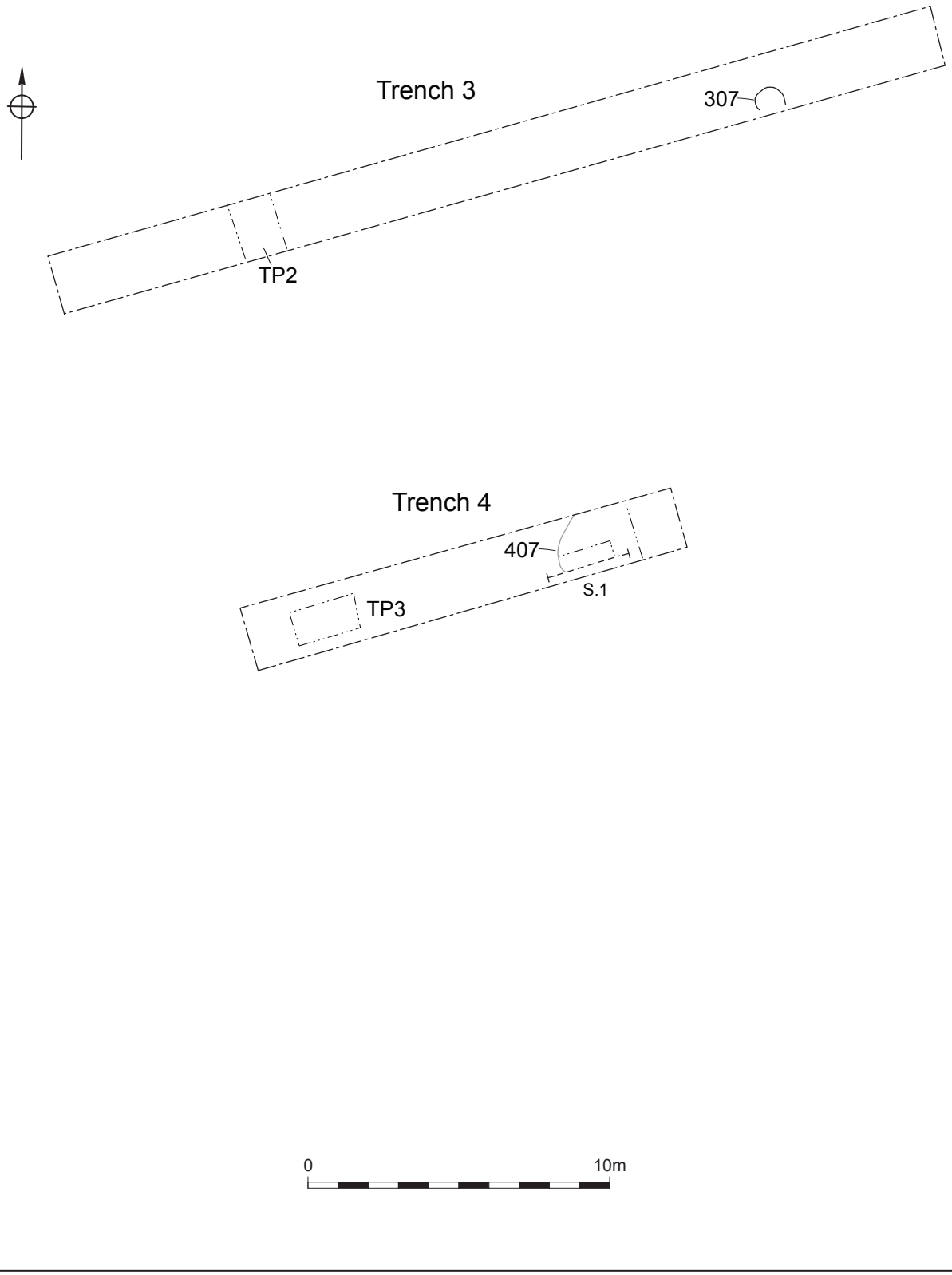
Location of the site *Figure 1*



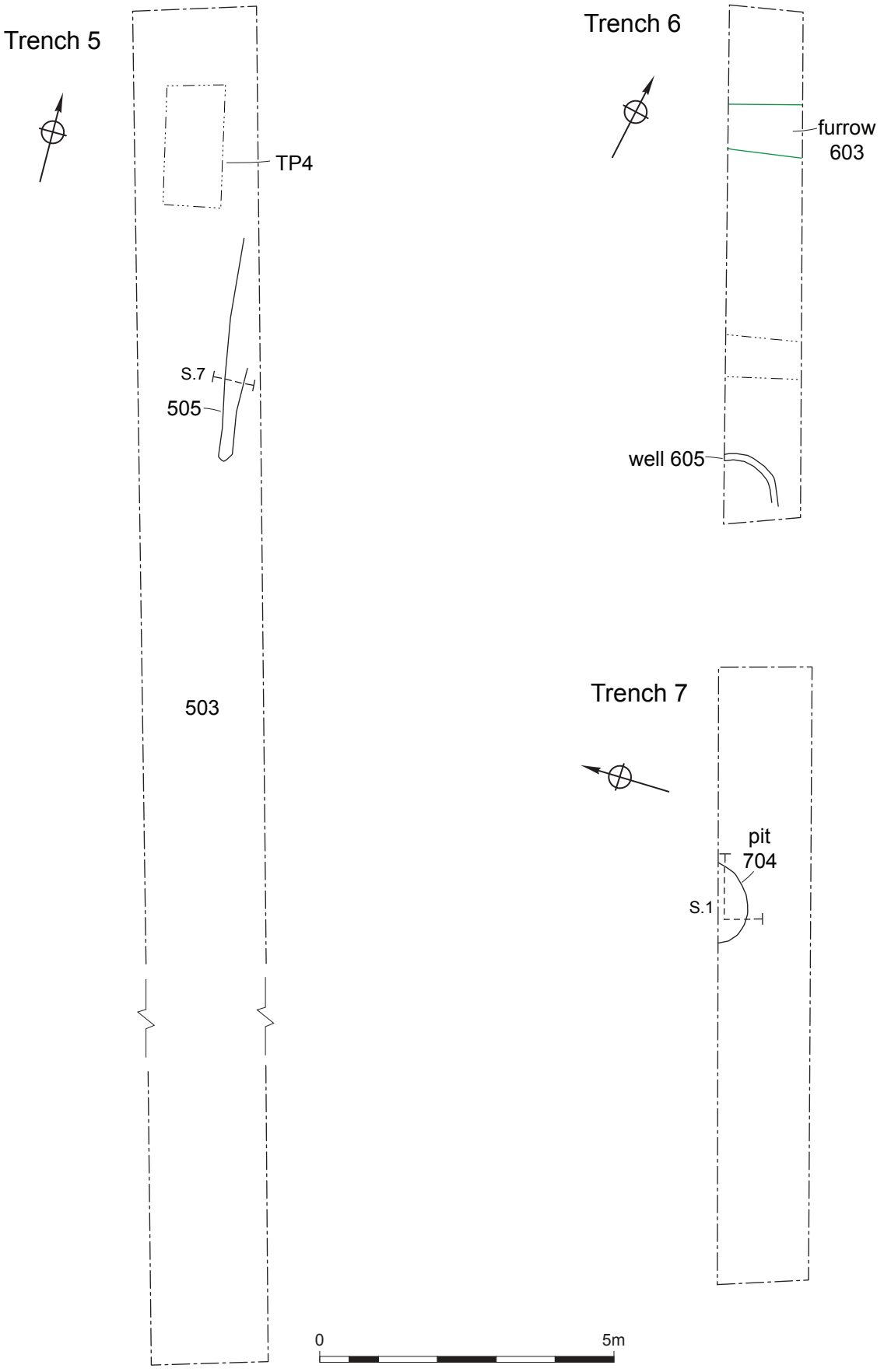
Trench location plan *Figure 2*



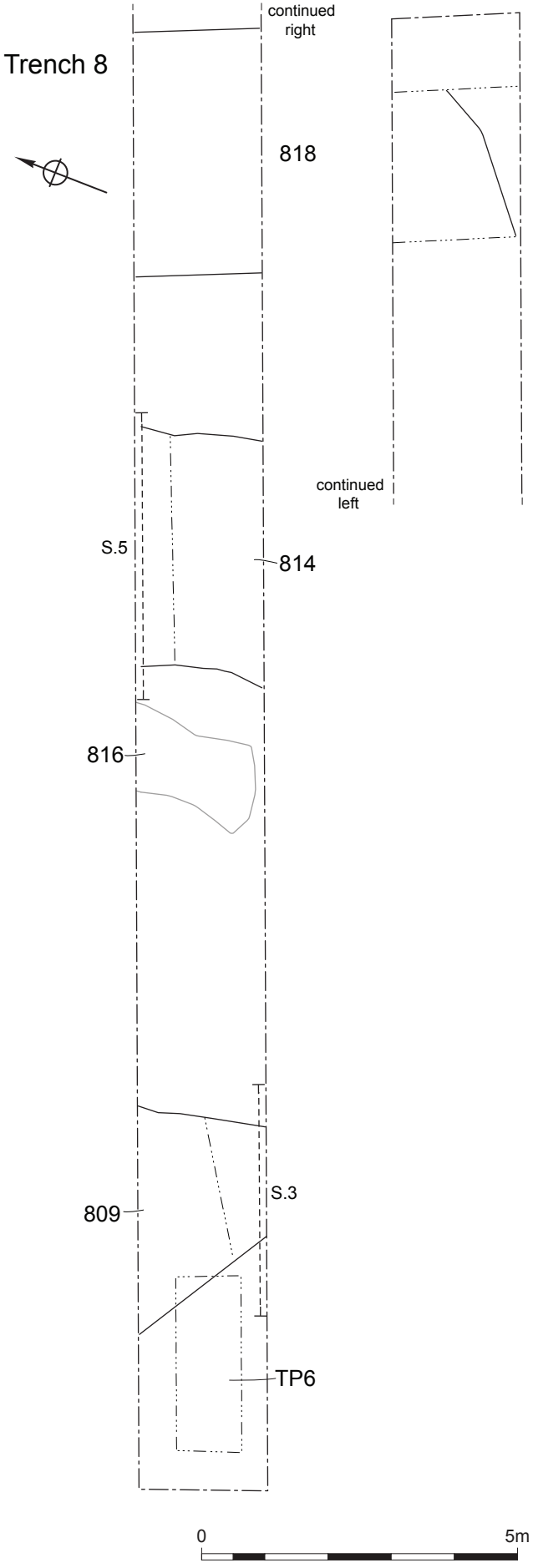
Trenches 1 and 2: plans *Figure 3*



Trenches 3 and 4: plans *Figure 4*

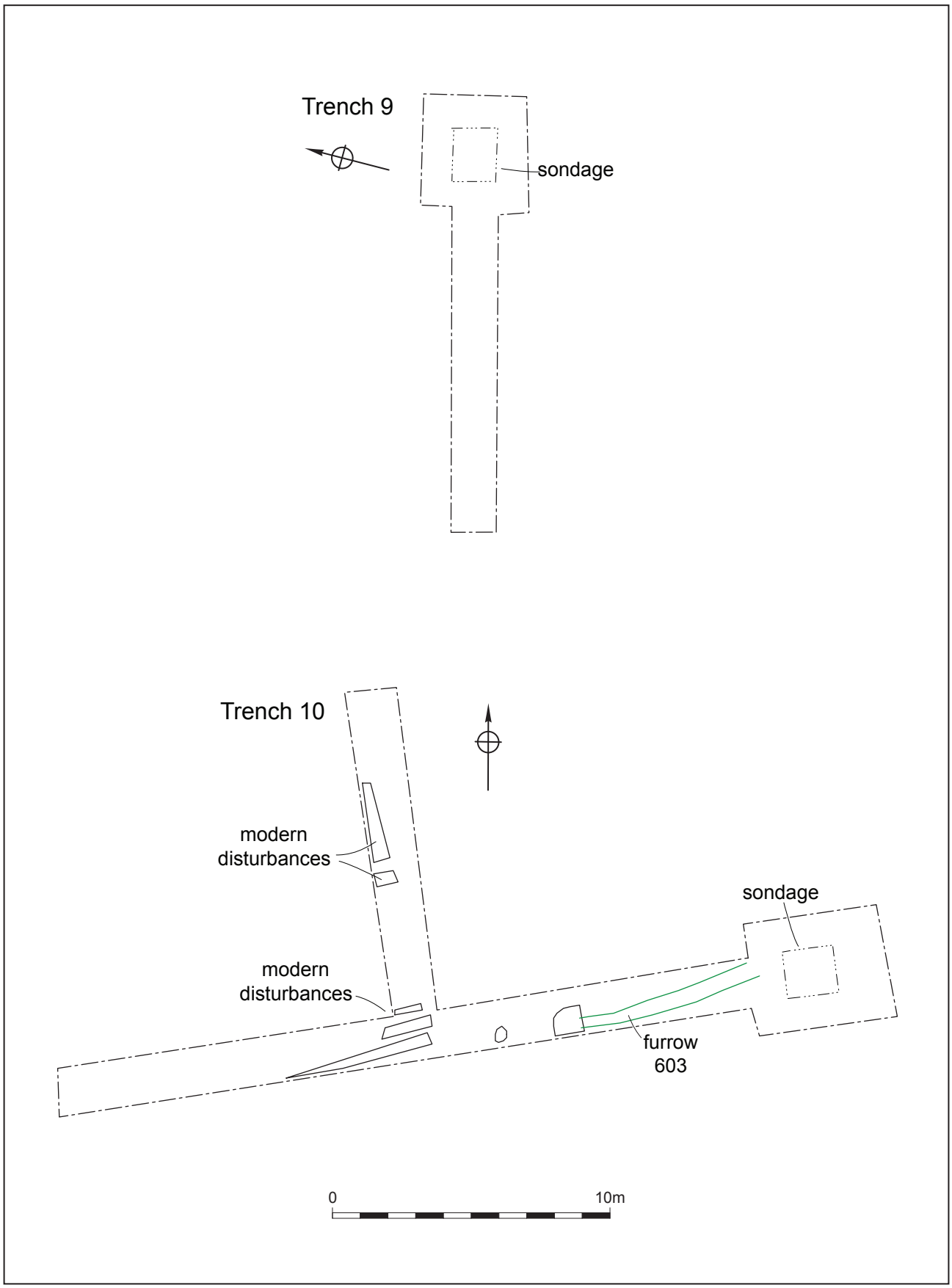


Trenches 5, 6 and 7: plans *Figure 5*



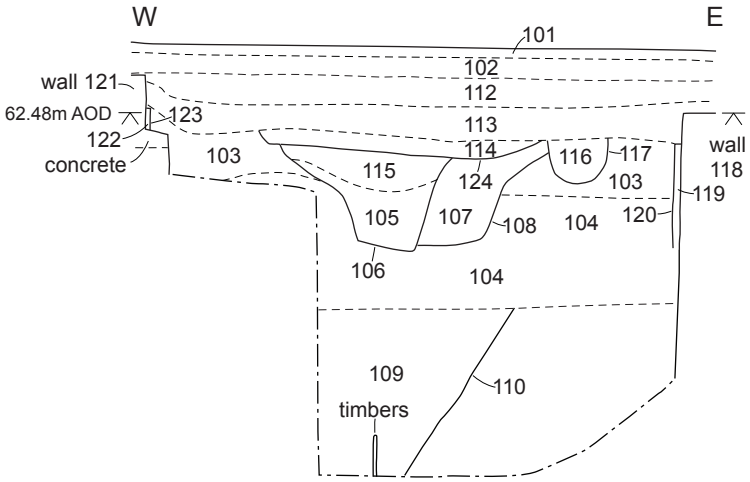
Trenches 8: plan

Figure 6

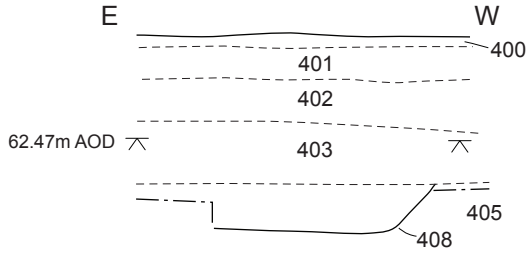


Trenches 9 and 10: plan *Figure 7*

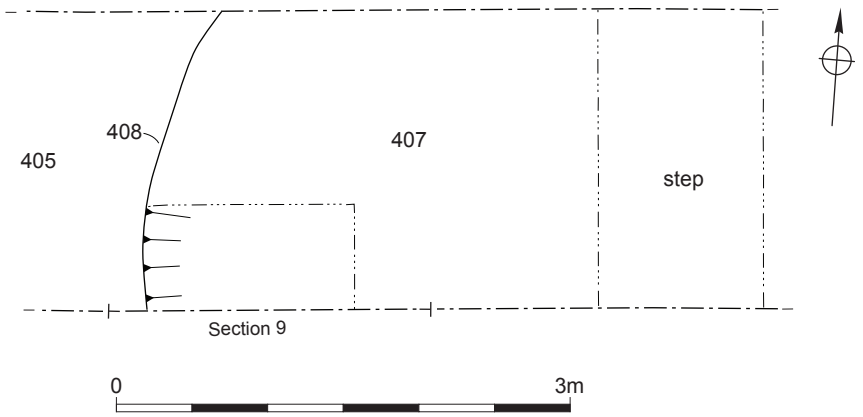
SECTION 11: PITS 106 AND 108



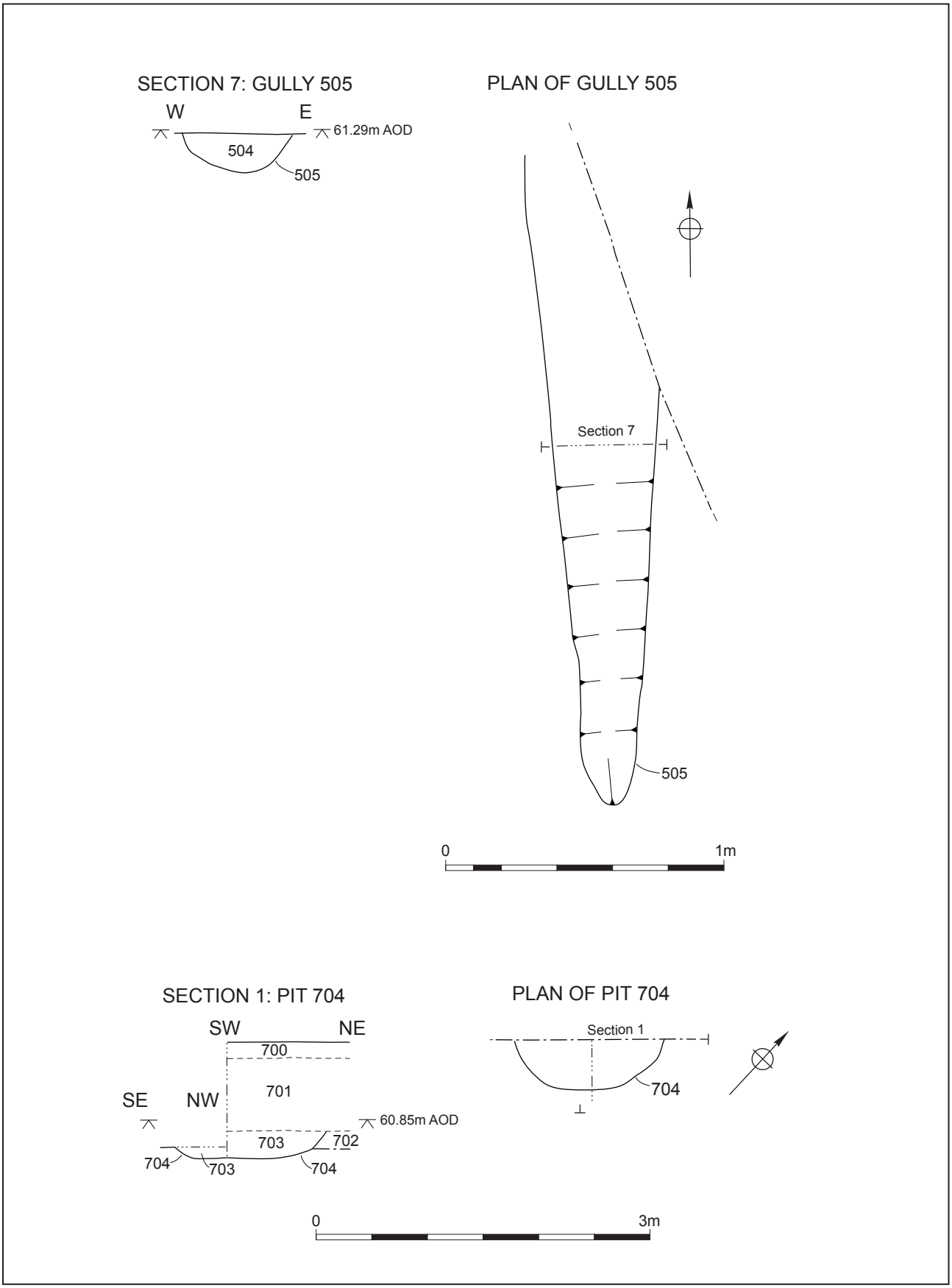
SECTION 9: PIT 408



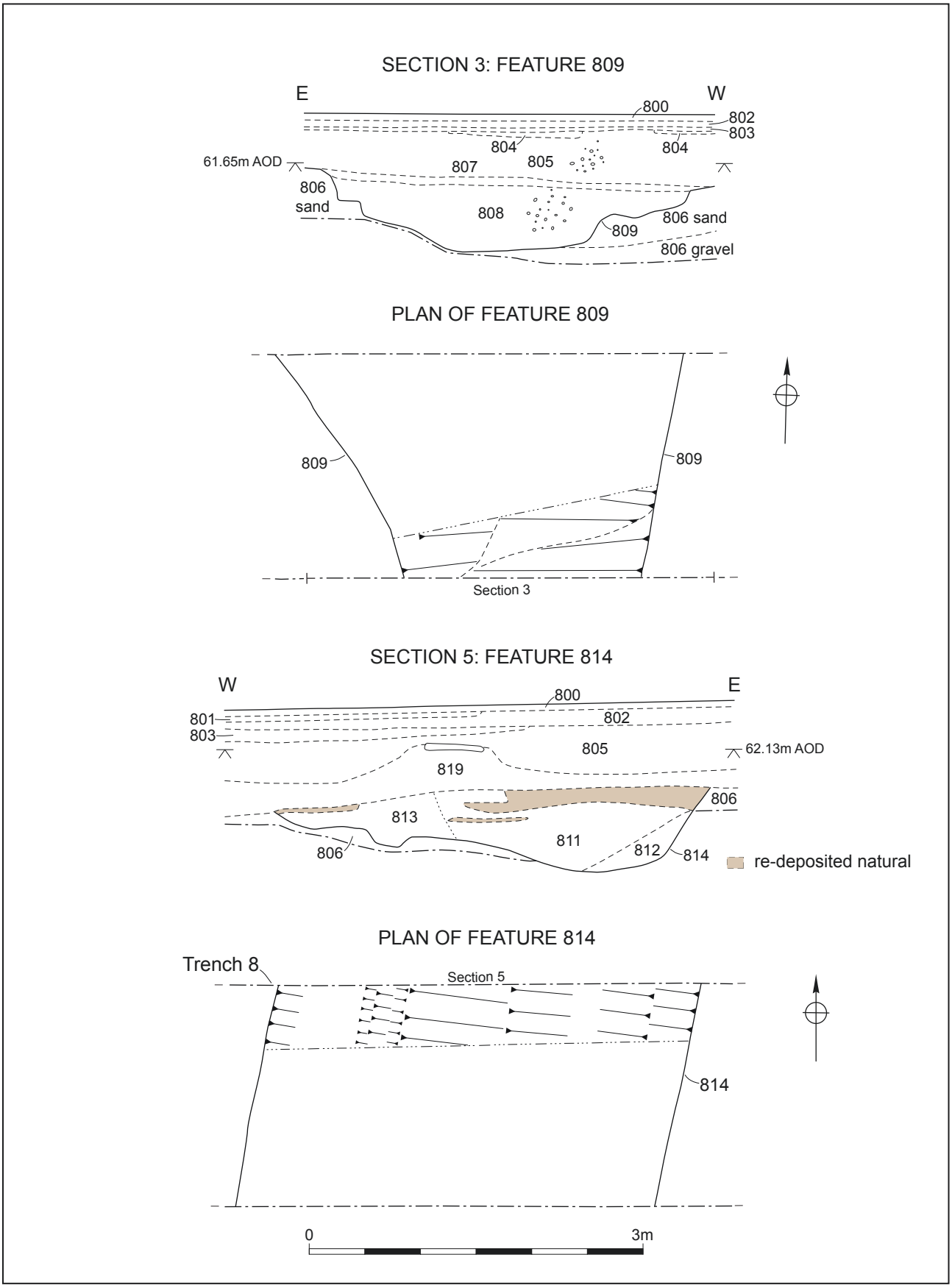
PLAN OF PIT 408



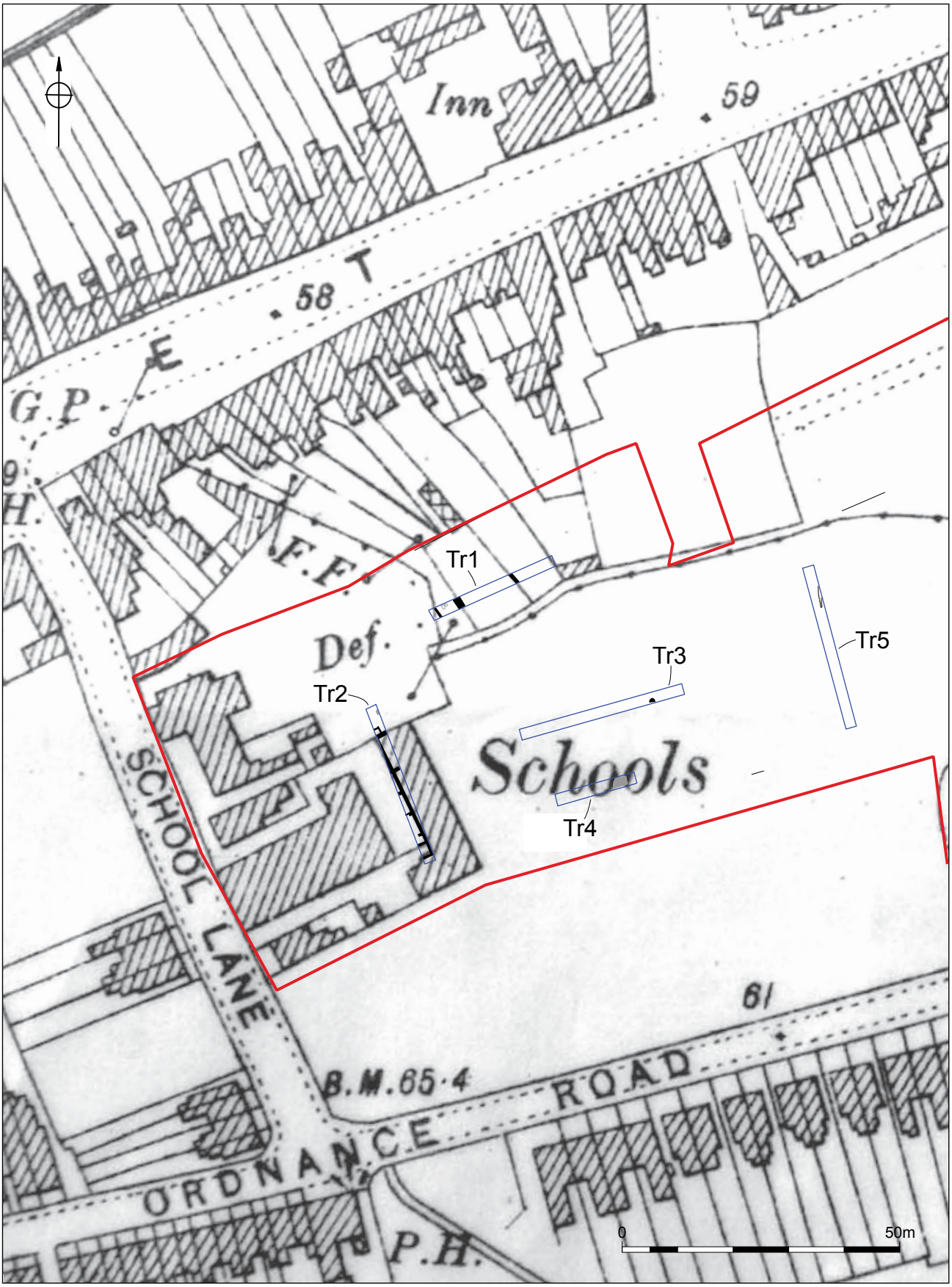
Plans and sections *Figure 8*



Plans and sections *Figure 9*



Plans and sections *Figure 10*



Ordnance Survey 1896 showing approximate location of walls in Trenches 1 and 2 *Figure 11*

Plates

Plate 1 Feature [110], looking north.

Plate 2 Furrow [1005], looking west

Plate 3 Trench 10, looking west

Plate 4 Furrow [603], looking north-east

Plate 5 Pit [704], looking north-west

Plate 6 Quarry pit [809]. looking south

Plate 7 Quarry pit [814], looking north

Plate 8 Ditch [505], looking north

Plate 9 Trench 7, looking south-west

Plate 10 Pit [409], looking south west

Plate 11 Pits [106, 108, 117], looking north

Plate 12 Well [605], looking south (1m scale)

Plate 13 Structures (202, 203), looking south

Plate 14 Structures (202, 203), looking north

Plate 15 structure (118), looking east

Plate 16 Structure (121), looking west

Plate 7 Trench 9, looking west

Plate 8 Section in Trench 9, looking south

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 30m Width: 2m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
101	Modern Layer	Layer			Tarmac
102	Modern Layer	Layer			Levelling rubble below tarmac.
103	Layer	Layer			Possible relict topsoil?
104	Natural	Layer			Natural - sand deposit. Presumably a river borne deposit.
105	Pit	Fill	Loose mid brownish grey silty sand	0.66m	Lower fill of pit. Contains post-med CBM and pottery. Likely a deliberate construction waste and domestic waste dumping.
106	Pit	Cut		0.74m	Pit cut, later than pit (108). Fills have post-medieval CBM and pottery so likely domestic dumping of this period.
107	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact light greyish brown silty sand	0.72m	Fill of pit (108). Darker towards the base. Post-med CBM gives a date.
108	Pit	Cut		0.72m	Post-med domestic / construction waste pit. Later truncated by [106] and [124].
109	Well	Fill	Soft mid blue clay	1.10m +	Fills could not be closely inspected in situ. No organics seen apart from a quarter circle of uprights, possibly a barrel? Well feature.
110	Well	Cut			Possible well? Seeb in a very deep section so could not be accurately recorded due to H&S. Had a quarter circle of wooden uprights at its centre, possibly part of a barrell. Possibly forming a well shaft although the overall layout of the feature is far from circular.
111	Natural	Layer			Natural gravels.
112	Modern Layer	Layer		0.24m	Pink hardcore layer below (102).
113	Modern	Layer	rubble	0.25m	Victorian rubble demolition

	Layer				layer.
114	Layer 0.20m		blackish brown silty sand		Layer Moderately Compact dark Fill of possible pit cut [124]. Clearly post med rubble waste within. May be more to do with pit [106] but unsure - possible later cut. It could however, just be an old topsoil sitting above the two pits and thus the cut [124] doesn't
115	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact dark blackish grey silty sand	0.32m	Upper fill of pit [106]. Post med material gives date. Unsure of relationship with (114) above. Possibly truncated by [124].
116	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact dark grey rubble	0.32m	Fill of pit [117]. Post med / victorian construction waste in a silty sand
117	Pit	Cut		0.32m	Post-med / victorian construction dump pit.
118	Wall	Structure		1.05m	Mid 20th century wall indicated on maps. Constructed from mid reddish orange brick (220x50x100mm). Regular courses - garden wall style. Has a thin concrete cap running over the top of it. It was possibly a garden wall. Have not located or excavated the wall base / footings.
119	Construction Cut	Fill	Moderately Compact dark blackish brown silty sand	0.71m	Back fill of construction cut [120] for wall 118.
120	Construction Cut	Cut		0.71m	Construction cut for wall 118.
121	Wall	Structure		0.51m	Mid 20th century wall possibly identified on maps. Mid yellow (limestone?) brick wall . Brick dimensions: 220x100x65mm. Garden wall but unsure of relationship with 118. Most likely contemporary. Later covered by layers 112 and 113.
122	Construction Cut	Fill	Moderately Compact dark brown silty sand	0.15m	Construction cut [123] backfill. Butts wall 121.
123	Construction Cut	Cut		0.15m	Construction cut for wall 121.

124	Pit	Cut		0.20m	Cut of wide feature going through top of other pits [106] and [108]. Unsure of nature - possible further construction waste dumping inthis area. This may however be just an old topsoil and thus the cut would not exist.
125	Wall Footings	Structure			Concrete footings.
126	Unknown	Fill	Moderately Compact dark brownish grey sandy silt	0.20m +	Large spread of material with post-med finds. Within cut [127]. Fill (128) is from same feature. Just separated for the sake of finds. (128) adds 7m onto length of feature.
127	Unknown	Cut		0.20m +	Western cut of large spread of material identified in trench. It runs right to the eastern end of the tench and stops with cut [129]. Same as [129].
128	Unknown	Fill			Same as (126) but separated for finds.
129	Unknown	Cut			Same as [127].

Trench 2

Length: 30m Width: 2m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
200	Modern Layer	Layer			Tarmac
201	Modern Layer	Layer			Rubble hardcore and levelling.
202	Wall	Structure		0.80m	Walls of former school between 1865-1915 from map evidence. Bricks are machine made (9x4.5x3").
203	Wall	Structure		1.29m	Brick wall extension to 202. Machine made bricks (9.5x4.5x2.5"). Alternative header - stretcher courses.
204	Layer	Layer			Former / relict topsoil.
205	Natural	Layer			Natural - yellow sandy clay at south end becoming redder at centre. North end is alluvial blue clay with some light blue
206	Pit	Fill			Fill of pit [207]. Possibly modern.

207	Pit	Cut			Post-medieval / modern pit cut.

Trench 3

Length: 30m Width: 2m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
300	Modern Layer	Layer		0.04m	Tarmac
301	Modern Layer	Layer		0.12m	Modern levelling / hardcore below tarmac.
302	Modern Layer	Layer		0.40m	Hardcore below tarmac
303	Layer	Layer	Moderately compact dark brownish grey clay silt	0.18m	Possible relict / buried topsoil below (302)
304	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately compact mid greyish brown silty sand	0.28m	Subsoil.
305	Natural	Layer			Natural mid blueish grey alluvial clay.

Trench 4

Length: 15m Width: 2m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
400	Modern Layer	Layer		0.06m	Tarmac
401	Modern Layer	Layer		0.16m	Tarmac levelling / bonding layer
402	Modern Layer	Layer		0.35m	Hardcore
403	Modern Layer	Layer		0.10m	A possible old construction / demolition layer between (402) and (404). Contains reddish orange Victorian brick. May be modern or may be post-med in date.
404	Subsoil	Layer		0.30m	Subsoil or possible old relict topsoil.
405	Natural	Layer			Dark grey silty clay alluvium natural.
406	Pit	Fill			Fill of [407]. Firm mid grey brown silty clay. Rare post-medieval CBM
407	Pit	Cut			Spread of browner material. Not excavated. Possibly just a variation in the natural with some intrusive CBM. However

					could be cultural evidence.
408	Pit	Fill			Fill of post-medieval pit (409).
409	Pit	Cut			Cut of post-medieval pit.

Trench 5

Length: 30m Width: 2m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
500	Modern Layer	Layer			Tarmac
501	Modern Layer	Layer			Hardcore
502	Topsoil	Layer			Buried / relict subsoil.
503	Natural	Layer			Soft, light reddish grey clay with some blue clay patches. Natural.
504	Gully	Fill			Fill of gulley [505].
505	Gully	Cut			Cut of north-south aligned gulley.

Trench 6

Length: 9m Width: 1.3m Orientation: North-west to south-

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
600	Topsoil	Layer	mid greyish brown silty	0.40m	
601	Natural	Layer		0.20m-0.40m	
602	Furrow	Fill	light grey sand & gravel		Fill of furrow, no
603	Furrow	Cut			Cut of furrow, no finds or dating, most likely Med or Post-Med.
604	Well	Fill	Soft mid grey sandy silt		Backfill of well. Post Med pot found within which gives it a date, along with the brick type.
605	Well	Structure			Hand made brick that forms the well structure. Post-med. One was frogged, but with no stamp. Sand bond matrix.
606	Well	Cut			Construction cut for well 605.

Trench 7

Length: 10.40m Width: 1.50m Orientation: North-east to south-

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
700	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark greyish brown sitly loam	0.30m	
701	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark blackish brown clayey silt	0.60m	
702	Natural	Layer	Compact mid greyish brown silty clay	0.10m +	
703	Pit	Fill	Moderately compact dark brownish grey clayey silt	0.25m	Fill of pit/ gully terminus. Ceramic finds usggest post med or modern feature. Likely domestic rubbish waste.
704	Pit	Cut		0.25m	Pit or gully terminus cut. Likely post med of

Trench 8

Length: 30m Width: 2m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
800	Modern Layer	Layer	Tarmac	0.04m	Tarmac
801	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose mid blueish grey Hardcore	0.07m	Modern layer.
802	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose mid pinky red Hardcore	0.13m	Modern layer.
803	Modern Layer	Layer	Moderately compact mid grey silty sand	0.06m	Modern levelling layer.
804	Modern Layer	Layer	Compact dark grey sandy	0.08m	Unsure of nature, but clearly modern layer.
805	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately compact mid greyish brown silty sand	0.47m	Subsoil containing occasional post-medieval CBM and pottery.
806	Natural	Layer	Loose mid orangey yellow sand		Natural. Orangey yellow sand with yellowy orange gravel below.
807	Ditch	Fill	Moderately Compact dark brownish grey clay silt	0.10m	Top layer of ditch [809]. Represents the final sealing of the feature at the end of its use. Post-med pot will help date it.
808	Ditch	Fill	Moderately Compact mid greyish brown silty sand	0.70m	Main fill of ditch [809]. Post-med pot / CBM gives a date. The poorly sorted stones indicate deliberate backfilling.
809	Ditch	Cut		0.73m	Ditch cut. Or appears to be a ditch in plan. Truncated heavily. Post-med CBM /

					pot in both fills. Possibly an old field boundary?
810	Modern Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact mid orange silty sand	0.20m	Silty sand layer that runs throught the middle third of trench's north facing baulk. Modern layer.
811	Ditch	Fill	Moderately Compact dark greyish brown silty sand	0.72m	Fill of ditch [814]. Contains layers of redposited natural, some of which seal the ditch. Hard to distinguish between (811) and (813) in section, other than the redeposited natural and less finds in (811). Post-med pot / CBM and glass indicate a date.
812	Ditch	Fill	Moderately Compact light yellowish brown silty sand	0.64m	Slump of natural like material down east side of ditch [814]. Likely happened when ditch was left open. No finds or
813	Ditch	Fill			Description same as (811). Fill down east side of ditch [814]. More finds (post-med CBM and pot) than (811) but otherwise quite indistinguishable. The divide between the two is suggested by nature of redeposited natural.
814	Ditch	Cut		0.80m	Very wide feature, possibly linear ditch or aggregate extraction pit. Fits in with [809] and [818] nearby. Post-med pot and CBM should provide dates.
815	Modern Feature	Fill			Fill of feature [816]. Modern feature, a possible linear or pit. Unexcavated.
816	Modern Feature	Cut			Modern feature. Possible a linear or a pit. Left unexcavated.
817	Linear	Fill			Fill of linear [818]. Unexcavated.
818	Linear	Cut			Linear [818]. Very wide. Left unexcavated.
819	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact light brown silty sand	0.40m	Subsoil containing moderate pebbles and post-medieval CBM.

Trench 9

Length: 15m Width: 1.50m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
900	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark greyish brown silty loam	0.28m	
901	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark blackish brown clayey silt	0.43m	Does also include a few bands of orange grey clay that is likely redeposited natural.
902	Natural	Layer	Compact mid greyish brown silty clay	0.15m +	

Trench 10

Length: 30m/11.7 Width: 1.50m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1000	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark greyish brown silty loam	0.30m	
1001	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid orangey yellow Hardcore	0.35m	
1002	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark blackish brown clayey silt	0.35m	bottom 7cm diffuses into the natural below.
1003	Natural	Layer	Compact mid greyish brown silty clay	0.17m +	
1004	Furrow	Fill	Compact mid greyish brown silty clay	0.05m	
1005	Furrow	Cut		0.05m	Furrow cut, pot within suggests Post-Med
1006	Unknown	Fill			Post-med/ modern disturbance
1007	Unknown	Cut			Post-med/ modern disturbance
1008	Unknown	Fill			Post-med/ modern disturbance
1009	Unknown	Cut			Post-med/ modern disturbance
1010	Unknown	Fill		0.03m	Post-med/ modern disturbance with pot and coal
1011	Unknown	Cut		0.03m	Post-med/ modern disturbance
1012	Unknown	Fill		0.03m	Post-med/ modern disturbance, with pot
1013	Unknown	Cut		0.03m	Post-med/ modern disturbance
1014	Unknown	Fill		0.03m	Post-med/ modern disturbance, with CBM and pot

1015	Unknown	Cut	0.03m	Post-med/ modern disturbance
1016	Unknown	Fill		Post-med/ modern disturbance, with CBM and pot
1017	Unknown	Cut		Post-med/ modern disturbance
1018	Unknown	Fill		Post-med/ modern disturbance, with CBM, pot and glass
1019	Unknown	Cut		Post-med/ modern disturbance

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

34	Context records AS1
2	Field progress reports AS2
3	Photographic records AS3
309	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
7	Scale drawings
1	Sample number catalogues AS18
10	Trench record sheets AS41
1	Box of finds
1	CD-Rom/DVDs
1	Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Mortimer Wheeler House
46 Eagle Wharf Road
London
N1 7ED

Appendix 3 Geoarchaeology report

Hounslow Town Primary School: The Potential of River Terrace Sediments to Yield Palaeolithic Cultural and Environmental Archaeology

A Report for Worcestershire Archaeology

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Executive Summary

Eight test pits were machine-excavated into natural sediments within trial trenches at Hounslow Town Primary School to examine the potential of the area to yield Palaeolithic cultural and environmental archaeological remains. This report documents this investigation and forms part of a wider study investigating the postglacial archaeological record of the site (described separately).

Test pitting recorded a mixture of fine-grained, inorganic alluvium, interpreted as postglacial (Holocene) in origin, as well as sands and gravels of both Holocene and Pleistocene date; the former sand and gravels are thin units interbedded between fine-grained alluvium whilst the latter rest on sediments interpreted as bedrock. The Holocene alluvium has formed through overbank deposition within discrete, stable channels with any postglacial gravels associated with them reflecting higher energy events. In contrast, the Pleistocene sands and gravels were deposited within unstable braided river channels under cool or cold climatic conditions; however, no periglacial features were noted during test-pitting. All the natural sediments were overlain by a veneer of made ground.

None of the postglacial alluvium was organic-rich and therefore it has a low palaeoenvironmental potential.

No cultural or environmental remains associated with Palaeolithic contexts were recorded across the site. In contrast, a possible post-glacial feature and possible structural remains were recorded in the western area within the alluvium.

1. Introduction

The river terrace sediments of the Thames Valley and its tributary systems contain a rich geoarchaeological archive comprising lithic remains (handaxes etc) and organic channel sediments that chart the human occupation, climate and landscape history of southern Britain for well over half a million years (Bridgland, 1994).

Palaeogeographical reconstructions, particularly based on clast lithological analysis, demonstrate that prior to the Anglian glaciation (Marine Isotope Stage [MIS] 12, *c*. 450 ka BP), the Thames flowed north of its present course through the Vale of St Albans (Hertfordshire) and Essex to the North Sea Basin. However, the southward encroachment of Anglian glacial ice pushed (diverted) the Thames southwards into its present course and therefore the record of river terraces within the contemporary corridor through Greater London and the study area provide a record of climate and human occupation for around 450,000 years.

This report provides an assessment of the potential of river terrace sediments mapped beneath the site of Hounslow Town Primary School, Pears Road, Hounslow, to yield Palaeolithic archaeology and associated environmental remains. This report contributes to a wider evaluation of the post-glacial archaeology of the site undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology, which is reported separately. This report is focused specifically on the Palaeolithic potential of the site and associated Quaternary geology.

2. Quaternary River Terraces and the Archaeological Record of the Thames

Following the model of river terrace development proposed by Bridgland (1994), cold climatic stages (glacials) are generally associated with a combination of fluvial incision and gravel deposition (aggradation) in unstable, multi-channel braided river systems. In contrast, temperate stages (interglacials) are characterised by fine grained, organic-rich sediment deposition within discrete, stable river channels.

Temperate climatic stages would have been preferred by early humans because of the abundance of resources, whereas during glacial periods, it is generally considered that Britain was more sparsely populated. During the harshest periods of climate, humans probably migrated southwards to warmer refugia across continental Europe. Therefore, intact occupation surfaces are most likely to be recorded where interglacial sediments can be identified. In contrast, river erosion and aggradation of sands and gravels during cold stages has resulted in the reworking of primary cultural deposits and palaeolandsurfaces; therefore, any lithics found within sands and gravels are usually secondary associations, although there are exceptions to this general rule.

Within the Middle and Lower Thames, a number of temperate (interglacial) river terrace sites have yielded lithic evidence for human activity as well as significant palaeoenvironmental remains (Bridgland, 1994; Bridgland *et al*., 1995; Bridgland *et al*., 2014), for example, Swanscombe (the Hoxnian interglacial, MIS 11, *c*. 400-423 ka BP), Purfleet and Grays (MIS 9, *c*. 303-339 ka BP); Stanton Harcourt, Alveley, Crayford, Ilford and West Turrock (MIS 7, *c*. 245 000–186 ka BP).

Analysis of the number of artefacts per terrace from the post-Anglian terrace sequence (Ashton and Lewis, 2002) has led to the conclusion that the density of human occupation declined progressively through successive glacial-interglacial cycles and that by MIS 6 occupation was nominal, with a complete absence during the last interglacial (the Ipswichian, MIS 5e). Reasons cited for this absence include the severing of the land-bridge between southern England and continental Europe, the harsh climate of MIS 6 and the climatic and habitat preferences of humans in the Middle Palaeolithic (Ashton and Lewis, 2002).

Humans appear to have emerged again following the Ipswichian Interglacial in the early part of the Devensian cold stage with significant evidence discovered in the Darent Valley, a south bank tributary of the Lower Thames upstream of Dartford (Wenban Smith *et al*., 2010).

3. Hounslow Primary School: Site Description

The primary school site lies on gently sloping ground immediately south of the A315 London Road. Whilst the school has significant areas of open space, the surrounding area is heavily urbanised making assessment of the local topography challenging. From contemporary ground levels, it appears that the school is situated in a slight west-east trending natural depression between areas of marginally higher ground (within the range of 2m). Certainly, historic mapping seems to indicate a drainage channel within the area of this depression, which is no longer present (e.g. Ordnance Survey 1869, Middlesex XX).

British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping (DiGMAP; http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digitalmaps/DiGMapGBMaps.html) indicates that the school site is underlain by London Clay bedrock of Palaeogene age (34-56 Million years old) and Quaternary sediments comprising the Taplow Gravel Member (recorded on DiGMAP as the Taplow Formation). At its type locality Taplow Station (Buckinghamshire), up to 6m of sand and gravel has been recorded and the unit has yielded Palaeolithic artefacts (Wymer, 968) and fossil vertebrate remains (Gibbard, 1985).

According to Bridgland (1994), the Taplow Gravel is a composite deposit that began to form during MIS 8 (*c*. 280 ka years BP) and continued to be aggraded during MIS 6 (*c*. 150 ka years BP). Between these two glacial stage when sands and gravels were deposited, finer-grained organic-rich channel sediments were laid down during the MIS 7 interglacial, as recorded at sites such as Stanton Harcourt in the Middle Thames (Buckingham *et al*., 1995) and at Aveley, Crayford, Ilford and West Thurrock in the Lower Thames (Bridgland *et al*., 1995; 2014).

Therefore, the Taplow Gravels are associated with a time interval when humans are known to have occupied southern England and one where Levallois lithic technologies first appear in abundance, signifying a key cultural and technological change in hominin behaviour. In addition to cultural evidence the deposits have also the potential to include organic sediments associated with MIS 7, and capable of yielding proxy evidence of the environment occupied by early humans (climate, vegetation and natural resources).

As well as the Quaternary deposits underlying the site itself, it should also be noted that less than a kilometre to the north, beyond Hounslow East and Hounslow Central railway stations, smaller patches of the attitudinally higher Lynch Hill river terrace are mapped (classified as Lynch Hill Gravel Member on DiGMAP). This deposit has been shown to contain abundant Palaeolithic artefact assemblages (Wymer, 1968) as well as vertebrate remains. Since the Thames has incised through time, there is the potential for artefacts from this older unit to be reworked into the Taplow deposits.

Also within the vicinity of the above mentioned railway stations are extensive deposits of the Langley Member, massive silts and clay with common periglacial involutions and cryoturbation structures. This deposit, known historically as a 'brickearth', is interpreted as colluvium, but is primarily derived from Loess. The Langley Member overlies a variety of gravel terrace units and may have been deposited during multiple Marine Isotope Stages from the Lynch Hill terrace phase onwards; thermoluminscence dates suggest that the most recent and extensive phase of deposition dates to around 17 ka BP (Gibbard *et al*., 1987). The Langley silts and clays have yielded vertebrate remains and Palaeolithic artefacts (Wymer 1968, Gibbard 1985) and therefore the potential exists for remains associated with the Lynch Hill deposits and near coeval deposits to be reworked into the Taplow Gravels.

Three publically available borehole records slightly north of the site on Hounslow High Road revealed the following sequence (**Table 1**; http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/boreholescans/home.html).

Table 1. Publically available borehole records describing the character of local deposits.

Borehole	Location (TQ)	Depth (m)	Description (m)

Reference			
TQ17NW36 — High Street, Hounslow 3	514340, 175880	15.24	0-1.83 - Made ground 1.84-2.44 - Clay bound sandy gravel 2.45-3.05 -Firm mottled blue silty clay with organic matter Bedrock
TQ17NW35 — High Street, Hounslow 2	514380, 175900	9.14	0-1.67 - Made ground 1.67-4.42 – Gravel 4.43-4.88 - Firm brown silty clay 4.89-9.14 - Firm to stiff fissured blue clay (bedrock)
TQ17NW35 — High Street, Hounslow 1	514430, 175900	7.62	0-1.98 - Clay bound sandy gravel 1.99-3.20 – Gravel 3.21-3.66 - Firm brown clay 3.67-7.62 - Firm to stiff fissured blue clay (bedrock)

4. Methodology

Given the context of the site within the broader Quaternary framework of the Middle Thames, the potential exists for Middle Palaeolithic cultural and environmental evidence to be present on the primary school site.

In total, 10 trial trenches were opened across the site to investigate the potential for post-glacial archaeological remains and all were excavated to the top of deposits deemed natural. The results of this work on postglacial archaeological remains are described separately.

In order to assess the potential of the site for Palaeolithic remains, machine test pits were excavated into the natural deposits (i.e. the underlying deposits) of selected trial trenches under the supervision of the report author. This work was undertaken over two days (16th February and 5th April 2016). With the exception of Trial Trench 1, where building footings were uncovered and awaited recording, all other trenches were available for investigation. Therefore, to obtain a representative sample of the Palaeolithic potential across the site, single test pits were excavated in the bases of Trial Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Test pits were excavated by JCB with extendable arm

Where necessary, trenches were stepped, though since all were below 1.2m depth, all inspections were undertaken from the ground surface unless stepped. Sand and gravel removed by the machine bucket was kept separate from the other spoil and visually inspected for archaeological and environmental remains.

The maximum depth of excavation varied to a maximum depth of around 4.5m (deemed deep enough to mitigate the potential impacts of any construction activity on the site); however, water ingress and associated test-pit collapse resulted in a number being shallower, though all were at least 2.50m deep (Appendix 1).

5. Results

5.1. Trial Trench Stratigraphy, East of the Main School Building

Four test pits were excavated in the bases of Trial Trenches 7 (TP 5), 8 (TP 6), 9 (TP 7) and 10 (TP 8) to the east of the main primary school building. Trench 10 was the lowest attitudinally, with Trenches 8 and 9 on

the rising ground at the northern end of the site and Trench 7 on the rising ground at the southern margin of the site.

Within all four test pits, sands and gravels were encountered beneath silty clays and loams. These silty clay and loam deposits are interpreted as postglacial alluvium, though within their upper parts they are mixed with made ground (modern) materials. In Trial Trenches 7 and 9, the alluvium was notably coarse (sandy), but given the position of these exposures on sloping ground, this may reflect a colluvial element to the deposits. The coarse nature of the upper horizons of Trial Trench 8 may reflect refill of the area following localised gravel quarrying in historical times (James Spry, pers. comm.).

The underlying sands and gravels were fine to coarse grained and clast-supported. Individual clasts comprised a mixture of nodular (sub-rounded) and fractured (angular) flint and sub-rounded quartzite. The basal sands and gravels were poorly bedded or massive in character and typical of sediments deposited in braided river channels under cold climatic conditions; however, no evidence of periglacial structures were recorded. No Palaeolithic archaeology or significant organic remains were noted in these sediments.

In Trial Trench 9, on rising ground towards London Road, stiff, red brown fissured clay was encountered at 1.50m; this material is interpreted as bedrock given its similar depth and description to the bedrock sediments described in nearby boreholes (see Table 1).

In Trial Trench 7, at the southern margin of the site, approximately 1.60m of sandy/silty clay was recorded above a thin bed of sand and gravel (0.30m thick). This coarse unit was in turn, underlain by olive grey, inorganic silty clay to a depth of 2.50m+. Given the thickness of the underlying clay, it is interpreted as a tripartite sequence of postglacial age with the interbedded gravel reflecting a period of higher energy river activity (see Trial Trench 5 TP 4 described below).

5.2. Trial Trench Stratigraphy, West of the Main School Building

Four test pits were excavated in the bases of Trial Trenches 1 (TP 1), 3 (TP 2), 4 (TP 3) and 5 (TP 4) to the west of the main primary school building. Trenches 2 and 5 were in the lowest, central part of a visible depression, whilst Trenches 3 and 4 were on the rising ground at the southern margin of the site.

Trench 1, in the lowest part of the site, revealed made ground overlying red brown silty clay, gleyed at depth, which is interpreted as postglacial alluvium. In the western side of the test pit, the basal contact of the alluvium dipped sharply and appeared cut, with this finer sediment filling a void in the north-western corner (c. 1m by 1m?) of the underlying sand and gravel (clast supported, medium to coarse flint and quartzite as previously described). Excavation into the underlying sand and gravel recorded it to a depth of at least 2.50m. However, fragments of worked wood (plank-like) within the pit suggested the presence of an archaeological feature (possible well?) and the eastern side of the pit was bounded by a brick wall (possible cellar?); therefore, test pitting was stopped at 2.50m.

In Trial Trench 3, slightly further upslope to the south, TP 2 revealed made ground overlying up to 4.20m of olive grey silty clay, interpreted as alluvium. Whilst sands and gravels were not recorded in Trench 3, a few metres further south TP 3 in Trial Trench 4 revealed made ground overlying around half a metre of alluvium, in turn overlying about 2m of clast-supported sand and gravel (with characteristics similar to those previously described). In Trial Trench 4, the sand and gravel rested upon stiff, red brown homogenous clay, similar to that described in Trench 9 and interpreted as bedrock. Test pit 4 in Trial Trench 5, revealed around half a metre of made ground overlying a little over half a metre of silty clay alluvium. This in turn, was underlain by approximately 0.7m of sand and gravel before grey silty clay alluvium was encountered to a depth of at least 4.3m; the considerable thickness of this latter unit and its topographic position suggests that it is of postglacial age. The stratigraphy in Trial Trench 5 is similar to that recorded in Trial Trench 7 (i.e. alluvium overlying a thin unit of sand and gravel, in turn overlying

alluvium) and is considered to be part of a post-glacial sequence rather than the gravel being of Pleistocene date. The occurrence of thin gravel units in postglacial alluvium is not uncommon in lowland river systems and may reflect higher energy phases of river activity during the Holocene.

With the exception of Trial Trench 4 where sands and gravels were encountered directly overlying material interpreted as bedrock, a stratigraphic context which would suggest that those sands and gravels are of Pleistocene age, the remainder of the western part for the site appears to be dominated by fine-grained sediments interpreted as post-glacial overbank alluvium. In Trial Trenches 3 and 5, this postglacial sequence was over 4m thick, demonstrating that a major stream channel occupied this area before urban encroachment. The alluvium thinned towards the south as demonstrated in Trial Trench 4. Despite evidence of waterlogging and reducing conditions, the alluvium comprised inorganic silty clays and no sediments such as peat capable of providing proxy recorded of climate, vegetation and human activity were identified.

A possible feature and structural remains were recorded in Trial Trench 2 and are the only archaeological features associated with the natural deposits on the western part of the site; no cultural or environmental remains associated with Palaeolithic contexts were recorded.

6. Concluding Remarks

- Eight test pits excavated into natural sediments within trial trenches at Hounslow Town Primary School recorded a mixture of fine-grained inorganic alluvium, interpreted as postglacial (Holocene) in origin, as well as sands and gravels of both Holocene and Pleistocene date; the former sands and gravels are thin units interbedded between fine-grained alluvium whilst the latter rest on sediments interpreted as bedrock. All the natural sediments were overlain by a veneer of made ground deposits.
- None of the postglacial alluvial deposits were organic-rich and therefore it has low palaeoenvironmental potential.
- No cultural or environmental remains associated with Palaeolithic contexts were recorded within the sands and gravels across the site. In contrast, a possible feature and structural remains were recorded in the western area within the postglacial alluvium.

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APPENDIX 1 – TEST PIT DESCRIPTIONS

Trial Trench 2, TP 1 (in tarmac car park)

0.00-0.90 – Made ground with abundant fragments of brick, mortar, concrete, heavily glazed pottery and fragments of animal bone. Merging base.

0.91-1.60 - Red brown silty clay (Alluvium), homogenous, gritty and heavily oxidised. Sharp, planar base with steep cut at the western edge with silty clay infilling void in gravel.

1.61-2.00 – Grey, medium to coarse, wellosorted, clast-supported gravel. Clasts comprise flint and quartzite. Water seepage at silty clay-gravel interface. Fragments of wood recorded in gravel close to the cut edge and samples of material indicate that it is plank-like and worked. Feature interpreted as artificial cut into the gravel (possible well?).

Test pit terminated at 2.50m (still in gravel) due to archaeology (brick wall uncovered at side of test pit might represent a cellar requiring further investigation).

End of Test Pit (EOTP)

Plate 1. North face of TP1 showing a sequence of made ground, alluvium and sand and gravel. The cut edge of feature is denoted by solid line.

Trial Trench 3, TP 2 (in caged van storage tarmac car park)

0.00-1.10 – Made ground with tarmac surface and underlain by crushed brick, mortar and concrete. Gradational, mixed, lower contact.

1.11-4.20 – Olive grey to grey silt alluvium (10YR 4/4) with patches of coarse gritty sand and pea gravel. Becomes darker grey with depth reflecting reducing conditions and effects of gleying (4 N/4). Entire unit is inorganic and homogenous with occasional modern rootlets.

No water penetration to base of pit and sand and gravel not reached.

End of Test Pit (EOTP)

Plate 2. General view of Trench 3, looking westwards towards TP 2.

Trial Trench 4, TP 3 (in caged van storage tarmac car park)

0.00-0.60 – Made ground comprising crushed brick mortar and general rubble. Gradational, mixed, lower contact.

0.61-1.00 – Grey brown silty clay (Alluvium), gritty with charcoal fragments.

1.01-1.90 – Blue grey, gleyed silty clay (alluvium) with oxidised patches (orange-brown). Reworked organic debris (no identifiable macroscopic remains) at the interface with the underlying sand and gravel. Sharp, planar, basal contact.

1.91-3.20 – Grey, medium to coarse, clast-supported gravel. Clasts comprise fractured and nodular flint as well as quartzite.

Significant water seepage at 2.70m.

3.21+ - Stiff, red, clay, fissured,and homogenous (bedrock?).

End of Test Pit (EOTP)

Plate 3. North face of TP 3 showing sequence of made ground, Holocene alluvium and Pleistocene sands and gravels.

Trial Trench 5, TP 4 (western-most playground under tarmac)

0.00-0.65 – Made ground comprising crushed brick, glazed bottles, mortar and concrete. Gradational, irregular base.

0.66-1.30 – Red brown silty clay (alluvium) (5YR 4/3). Homogenous and abundant oxidation. Sharp, irregular base.

1.31-2.00 – Grey, fine to coarse, clast-supported sand and gravel. Clasts of fractured and nodular flint and quartzite. Unit massive to sub-bedded. Sharp, planar base.

Significant water seepage at 2.00m.

2.00-4.30+ – Grey, stiff, silty clay (alluvium). Gleyed with occasional modern rootlets. Significant water seepage so pit was excavated wet.

End of Test Pit (EOTP)

Plate 4. North face of TP 4 showing made ground underlain by tri-partite sequence of Holocene alluvium, sand and gravel, and alluvium.

Trial Trench 7, TP 5 (in grass verge adjacent to carpark at front of school)

0.00-0.80 – Strong brown, gritty, silty clay. Friable, with abundant modern rootlets. Occasional medium pebbles of flint and occasional fragments of charcoal. Merging, gradational base.

0.81-1.60 – Bleached grey white sandy clay (Alluvium). Homogenous and massive. Occasional medium to large clasts of nodular flint. Sandier and clayey patches in places. Sharp, planar base.

@1.60m water seepage at gravel interface.

1.61-1.90 – Fine to coarse, clast-supported gravel with medium to coarse sand matrix. Clasts predominantly flint. Sharp, planar base.

1.91-2.50 - Olive grey silty clay (Alluvium) with significant rootlets, though no other obvious macroscopic remains.

End of Test Pit (EOTP)

Plate 5. South face of TP 5 showing tri-partite sequence of Holocene alluvium, sand and gravel, and alluvium.

Trial Trench 8, TP 6 (in north tarmac playground adjacent to brick wall)

0.00-0.90 –Dark brown loam with abundant matrix-supported fine to coarse pebbles (predominantly subrounded quartzite). Occasional brick fragments and manganese precipitation. Sharp, slightly irregular base (made ground).

0.91-1.30 – Light brown, sandy silt, slightly gleyed. Sharp, planar base.

1.31-2.60+ – Reddish brown, clast supported, fine to coarse sand and gravel, sub-bedded and clayey Clast mixture of nodular and fractured flint and sub-rounded quartzite. Concentrated patches of pea gravel.

Significant water seepage at 2.60m leading to pit collapse.

End of Test Pit (EOTP)

Plate 6. North and west faces of TP 6 showing stratigraphy of made ground and Pleistocene sands and gravels. Severe collapse and water penetration prevented exposure to bedrock.

Trial Trench 9, TP 7 (in grass of eastern playing field)

0.00-0.55 – Yellow brown fine sandy silt alluvium (10YR 6/8). Homogenous, moist with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles. Sharp, but irregular base, dipping to the south.

0.56-1.50 – Fine to medium sandy gravel. Predominantly clast-supported flint and quartzite clasts. Occasional woody debris, but nothing discreet. Gravel is massive and homogenous. Medium sand matrix. Sharp base.

Water seepage at 0.60m and collapse.

1.51-2.10+ – Red brown, stiff, fissured clay (bedrock?). Abundant water ingress.

End of Test Pit (EOTP)

Plate 7. West face of TP 7 showing stratigraphy of alluvium onto Pleistocene sands and gravels.

Trial Trench 10, TP 8 (in grass of eastern playing field) – record from top of natural

0.00-0.20 - Red brown silty clay. Becoming gleyed with depth. Abundant modern debris. Interpreted as made ground mixed with alluvium.

0.21-0.70 – Fine to medium clast-supported sand and gravel. Relatively well-sorted, homogenous and massive. Clast mixture of large flint nodules, fractured flint and quartzite. Matrix sand bleached white, though overall colour is pinkish grey (7YR 7/2). Merging, gradational base.

0.71-0.95 – Slightly coarser fine to medium gravel. More orange brown in colour (7.5YR 5/8, strong brown). Unit is clast-supported with medium, matrix sand. Overall homogenous and massive. Mixture of flint and quartzite clasts as above. Merging base.

0.96-1.20 – Medium to coarse pebbly sand (10 YR 6/8). Structureless. Pebbles of quartzite and flint.

1.21-2.20 - Medium to coarse pebbly sand with abundant pea gravel in places (10 YR 6/8). Structureless.

2.21- ? – Stiff, red brown clay, micro-brecciated (bedrock?).

@ 2.20m, water penetration and trench collapse.

End of Test Pit (EOTP)

Plate 8. South face of TP 8 showing stratigraphy of Holocene alluvium and Pleistocene sands and gravels.