



144-150 Old South Lambeth Road
London Borough of Lambeth

Archaeological Evaluation Report

**144-150 OLD SOUTH LAMBETH ROAD
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

On behalf of:
CgMs Consulting
Morley House
26 Holborn Viaduct
London EC1A 2AT

By:
Wessex Archaeology in London
Unit 701
The Chandlery,
50 Westminster Bridge Road
London
SE1 7QY

**REF 58500.02
MOL SITE CODE LBO04**

December 2004

*© Wessex Archaeology Limited 2004 all rights reserved
Wessex Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No. 287786*

**144-150 OLD SOUTH LAMBETH ROAD
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Table of Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>Non-technical Summary</i>	<i>iii</i>
1 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	4
1.2 PLANNING BACKGROUND	4
1.3 SITE LOCATION	4
1.4 LANDFORM GEOLOGY AND SOILS	4
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
2.1 PREHISTORIC (TO AD 43)	5
2.2 ROMANO-BRITISH (AD 43-410)	5
2.3 ANGLO-SAXON (AD 410 – 1066)	5
2.4 MEDIEVAL (AD 1066 – 1499)	5
2.5 POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN (AD 1500-PRESENT DAY)	5
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	6
3.1 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	6
4.1 METHODOLOGICAL STANDARDS	6
4.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY	6
4.3 FIELDWORK	6
4.4 RECORDING	7
5 RESULTS	7
5.1 INTRODUCTION	7
5.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS	7
5.3 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	8
6 CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION	8
7 THE ARCHIVE	9
8 REFERENCES	10
9 APPENDIX 1. TRENCH SUMMARY TABLE	11
10 APPENDIX 2. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM	12

Table of Figures

Figure 1. Site and Trench Location Plan

Figure 2. Trench Plan and Representative Section

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork and this report were commissioned by CgMs Consulting and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Duncan Hawkins for his assistance during the implementation and the undertaking of the fieldwork. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Barry Taylor of GLAAS for monitoring the works.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lawrence Pontin. The fieldwork was undertaken by Lawrence Pontin and Gary Evans. Gary Evans compiled the overall report. Illustrations were prepared by Mark Roughley.

**144-150 OLD SOUTH LAMBETH ROAD
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Non-technical Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation commissioned by CgMs Consulting and carried out by Wessex Archaeology, at the site of 144-150 Old South Lambeth Road SW8 in the London Borough of Lambeth (NGR 530388 177369).

The evaluation was undertaken to inform on the potential impact on archaeological deposits on the site posed by its potential redevelopment. The evaluation took the form of one 8m x 3m, machine excavated, trench across the proposed development area.

The works showed that the site had been severely impacted upon by the construction of a late 19th century building and subsequent large underground fuel tanks and other installations associated with a service station constructed in the 1960s.

Between the areas effected by the 19th century building and the service station, deposits of undisturbed material survived. These comprised a 0.90m thick layer of homogenous, dark grey clayey silt. This deposit contained small quantities of material dating for the most part to the 18th – 19th century. This deposit, which almost certainly represented the remains of a mixed soil, was seen to seal a 1.40m thick layer of homogenous yellow clayey silt, which contained 19th century pottery, and occasional small fragments of brick. This layer represented a mixture of dumps and soil.

The report concludes that the site was probably open farmland until the building of a row of shops and houses in the 19th century. The site was then heavily truncated by the construction of several large underground fuel tanks and other installations, associated with the former Thistle Service Station. Wessex Archaeology would conclude therefore that the archaeological potential on the Site is low and that consequently no further archaeological work be required as part of the redevelopment of the site.

**144 -150 OLD SOUTH LAMBETH ROAD
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (The Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 145-150 Old South Lambeth Road SW8 in the London Borough of Lambeth (The Site) (**Figure. 1**). This report summarises the results of the archaeological evaluation, which took place in November 2004.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 There are no present planning proposals to redevelop the Site. The evaluation was undertaken to inform whether archaeological issues would pose a constraint to development as, and when, a planning application is considered.

1.2.2 The evaluation was undertaken on the Site due to its location within an Archaeological Priority Zone, as defined within the London Borough of Lambeth Unitary Development Plan, and the results of previous archaeological interventions within the Site's vicinity.

1.2.3 Wessex Archaeology produced a specification (Wessex Archaeology, 2004) which detailed the objectives, methods and resourcing of an archaeological evaluation which, dependent on results, could be considered to fulfil any future archaeological planning condition. This was approved by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).

1.3 Site Location

1.3.1 The Site was approximately rectangular in shape and some 210m² in extent. It was bounded to the south and west by residential development, whilst to the north and east it fronted directly onto Old South Lambeth Road. The Site is presently occupied by a disused car repair facility. The Site is centred on National Grid Ref. 530388 177369.

1.4 Landform Geology and Soils

1.4.1 The underlying drift geology on Site was Kempton Terrace river gravels (BGS Sheet 270, South London).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric (to AD 43)

2.1.1 This area of Lambeth has been proved by excavation to have been occupied during the Neolithic period and a number of finds dating to the Neolithic period were recorded during excavations at 5 South Lambeth Road. A pit dating to the Middle Iron Age excavated at the north end of South Lambeth Road during the 1980s testifies to the occupation within the area at the end of the Iron Age.

2.2 Romano-British (AD 43-410)

2.2.1 The Site lies to the north of the Roman road (Stane Street) which ran along the line of present day Kennington Road/Clapham Road. The nearest known Roman settlements are at Vauxhall/Westminster and at Rectory Road, Clapham, where a Roman enclosure was excavated in the mid 1980s.

2.3 Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

2.3.1 There is little evidence of Saxon occupation of this part of the Borough. The closest settlement appears to have been at Rectory Road, Clapham and Lambeth Palace Road. In the 1980s, Saxon pottery was recovered to the north of the Site, during excavations at 5 South Lambeth Road.

2.4 Medieval (AD 1066 – 1499)

2.4.1 The Site lies within the late medieval and Post-medieval village of Lambeth, as postulated from John Rocque's map of 1745.

2.5 Post-medieval and Modern (AD 1500-Present Day)

2.5.1 The major development of this part of Lambeth appears to have begun in the 18th century. The major changes in this part of the borough occurred in the 19th century, with the advent of the railways. It was at this time that the modern street plan of the area evolved.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish and record, as far as reasonable possible, the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits, features and palaeo-environmental information within the Site.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 Methodological Standards

- 4.1.1 All works were conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (as amended 1994), and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2004) submitted and approved prior to commencement of the fieldwork.
- 4.1.2 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, arrangements were made with the Museum of London for deposition of the archive and finds, subject to agreement with the landowner. A Museum of London Site Code LBO 04 was allocated at this time.

4.2 Health and Safety

- 4.2.1 All works were carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.2.2 Prior to the commencement of the works a risk assessment was carried out and staff were briefed about site health and safety requirements. Copies of the risk assessment and health and safety method statement were supplied to the Client for approval.

4.3 Fieldwork

- 4.3.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of one 8.00m x 3.00m east-west Trench. This was located in an area of the Site likely to be effected by any future development and where the ground conditions were suitable (**Figure 1**).
- 4.3.2 The Trench was excavated using a 360°, tracked, mechanical excavator, operated under continuous archaeological supervision.
- 4.3.3 All spoil from the excavations was scanned visually for artefacts.

- 4.3.4 The Trench was positioned on the ground by measurements from features present on accurate and detailed maps (e.g. boundaries or buildings).

4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 All revealed deposits were recorded on Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets. A plan and representative section of the trench was recorded by means of drawings at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections, The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights. .
- 4.4.2 A full, monochrome and colour 35mm photographic record was also made of the sections and Trench.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A detailed summary of the deposits observed in the evaluation trench is presented in **Appendix 1**. Full details are available in the project archive. In the following section the context numbers are given in bold.

5.2 Archaeological Deposits

- 5.2.1 The earliest deposit uncovered during the evaluation, was a 1.60m thick deposit of yellowish green sandy clayey silt (**1005**). This was a homogenous deposit with very few inclusions, aside from a small quantity of Victorian pottery and occasional small fragments of red brick, roofing slate and burnt and unburned coal. This layer was truncated by a vertically sided cut of unknown use (**1007**). Only a small part of this cut was revealed during the evaluation, but it was at least 0.80m deep 0.40 m wide and 2.00m long. The fill of this cut (**1008**) was dark grey clay silt with very few inclusions except the occasional shard of Victorian pottery.
- 5.2.2 Cut (**1007**) was sealed by a 0.90m thick (Top: 4.00m aOD Base: 3.30m aOD) layer of dark grey, ashy clay silt (**1004**). This deposit contained occasional red brick fragments, roofing slate and fragments of coal. It was also seen to contain occasional thin lenses of soft light greenish brown sandy silt. This deposit was observed throughout the Trench and appears to be a mixed soil, formed through a mix of refuse dumps, rake out from domestic fires, and the spreading of night soil manure from the vicinity and further a field. The finds recovered from (**1004**) have been dated to the 19th century.
- 5.2.3 Two 19th century walls were observed cutting into layer (**1004**). These were built of mortar and yellow stock brick, and ran east–west along the northern and southern edges of the trench. A row of 19th century shops and housing is

know to have stood on the Site until the 1940s when they were destroyed by German bombing.

- 5.2.4 The concrete slab of the former car repair workshop sealed a modern north – south concrete drain and a substantial underground concrete structure. The large concrete structure almost certainly represents one of several large fuel tanks associated with the former Thistle Service Station, which were filled in with concrete in the 1980s.

5.3 Environmental Evidence

- 5.3.1 Due to the absence of any suitable deposits, no samples were taken for environmental analysis.

6 CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The evaluation showed that the Site had been significantly truncated by a late 19th century brick building and a substantial underground concrete fuel tank associated with the Thistle Service Station which stood on the Site from the 1960s until the 1980s. The fuel tank is, according to the former owner of the property, only one of two such tanks constructed in the eastern half of the Site. The tank uncovered during the evaluation, was at least 2.40m deep, and had truncated archaeological remains over almost 75 % of the trench.
- 6.1.2 Between the areas effected by the 19th century building and the service station, deposits of undisturbed material survived. These comprised a layer of homogenous, dark grey clayey silt (**1004**) that almost certainly represented the remains of a Post-medieval mixed soil. This deposit contained small quantities of material dating to the 19th century. This deposit sealed a thick deposit of homogenous yellow clay silt (**1005**) that contained 19th century pottery and small fragments of red brick. This deposit again represents a mixture of dumps and soil possibly in a marshy environment.
- 6.1.3 Natural deposits were not reached at the Site.
- 6.1.4 The lack of finds and features on Site is partly due to 19th and 20th century construction but may indicate also that the Site was probably open farmland until the early 19th century, when a row of houses and shops, represented by the stock brick walls (**1002, 1003**) were built.
- 6.1.5 The substantial truncation caused by the construction of the 19th century building and, more importantly, the large underground fuel tanks and other installations, associated with the former Thistle Service Station means that the archaeological potential on Site is low.
- 6.1.6 Given the low probability of finding significant archaeological remains on the Site, we would not recommend the implementation of any further archaeological mitigation measures.

7 THE ARCHIVE

- 7.1.1 The completed project archive was prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990)*. The archive from the project, including the finds and environmental samples is currently being held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire under the project code 58500.and subject to the wishes of the landowner will be deposited with the Museum of London.

8 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey	1998	<i>Geological map of England and Wales, Sheet 270, South London</i>
English Heritage	1988	<i>London Region Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork - Archaeological Guidance Paper 3 June</i>
Institute of Field Archaeologists	1994	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations</i>
Wessex Archaeology	2004	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation 144-150 Old South Lambeth Road SW 8 (Unpublished)</i>

9 APPENDIX 1. TRENCH SUMMARY TABLE

All (+) indicate deposits/features not fully excavated
 “Depth” equals depth from the present ground surface

TRENCH 1			
	Length: 8.00m	Width: 3.00m	Max. Depth: 2.80m
Context	Description		Depth
1001	Modern concrete slab		0.00-0.30m
1002	Wall-Yellow stock brick wall at north edge of trench		0.30-0.70m
1003	Wall-East –West yellow stock brick wall at southern edge of trench		0.50-1.80m (+)
1004	Layer- Dark grey silt occasional fragments, red tile, red bricks, 19 th century pottery, roofing slate, burnt coal		0.70m-1.50m
1005	Fill-Dark grey silt occasional fragments, red tile, red bricks, 19 th century pottery, and burnt coal. Fill of 1007		1.45m- 2.15m
1006	Cut-Vertical side (only east side observed) filled with 1006		1.45m-2.15m
1007	Layer-Light yellow homogenous clay silt, occasional red brick, roofing slate, 19 th century pottery		1.50m-2.90m (+)

10 APPENDIX 2. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-5878

Project details
Project name 144-150 South Lambeth Road

Short description of the project Evaluation trenching showed that the site was much truncated by the construction of a late 19th-century building and of underground fuel tanks and services associated with a service station built in the 1960s. Between the areas affected by the 19th-century building and the service station, a 0.90m thick deposit of homogeneous dark grey clayey silt containing small quantities of material dating to the 18th-19th centuries survived. Beneath this layer was a 1.40m thick deposit of homogeneous yellow clayey silt which contained 19th-century pottery and occasional small brick fragments. It was concluded that the site was probably open farmland until the construction of a row of shops and houses in the 19th century.

Project dates Start: 15-11-2004 End: 16-11-2004

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 58500 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes LBO04 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type No present proposals

Prompt Voluntary/self-interest

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location
Country England
Site location GREATER LONDON LAMBETH LAMBETH 144-150 Old South Lambeth Road

Study area 210 Square metres

National grid TQ 53038 17736 Point

reference

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Wessex Archaeology

Project director/manager L. Pontin

Project supervisor G. Evans

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unspecified Archive'

Paper Archive Exists? Yes

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 144-150 Old South Lambeth Road

Author(s)/Editor(s) Wessex Archaeology

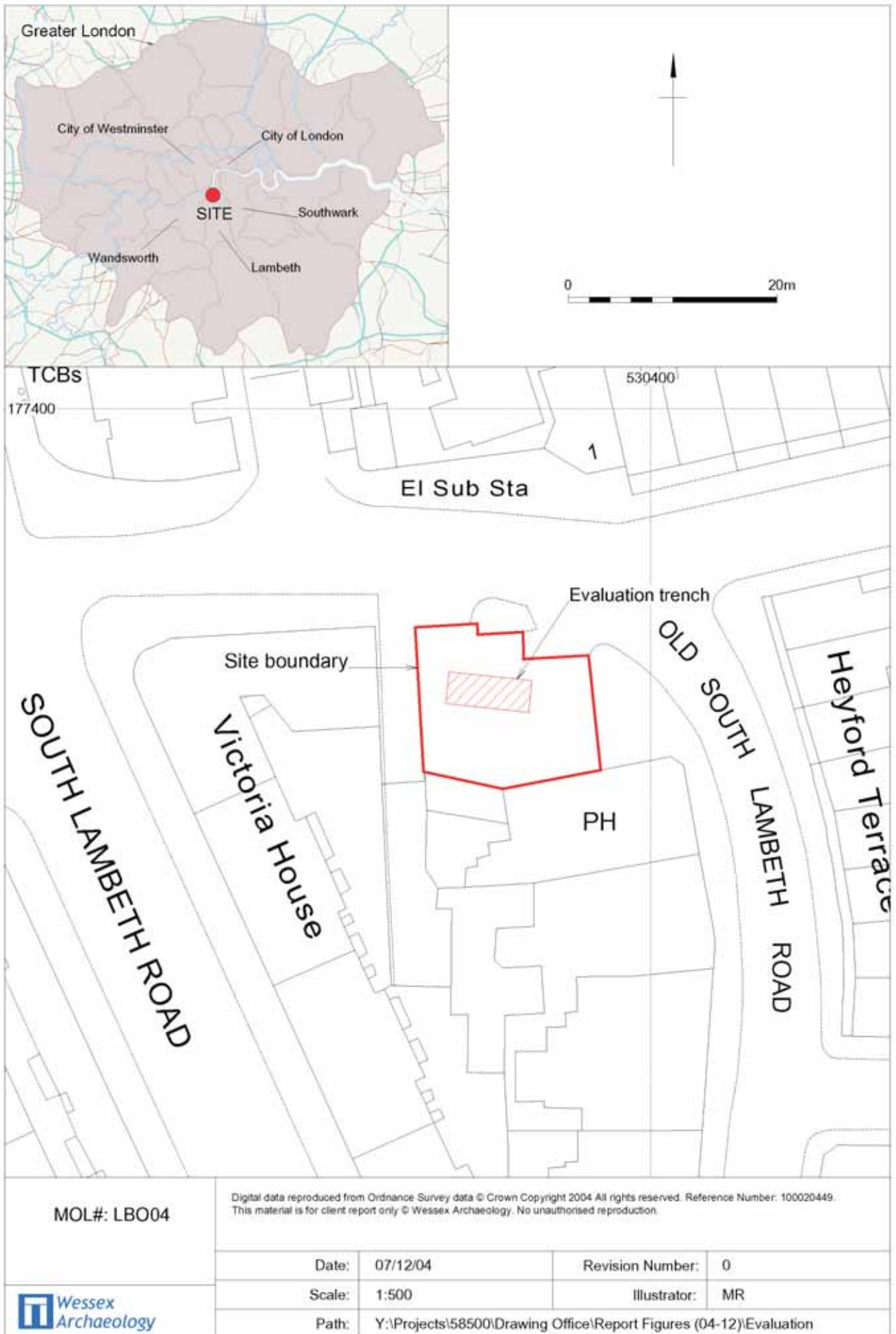
Date 2004

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or publication London

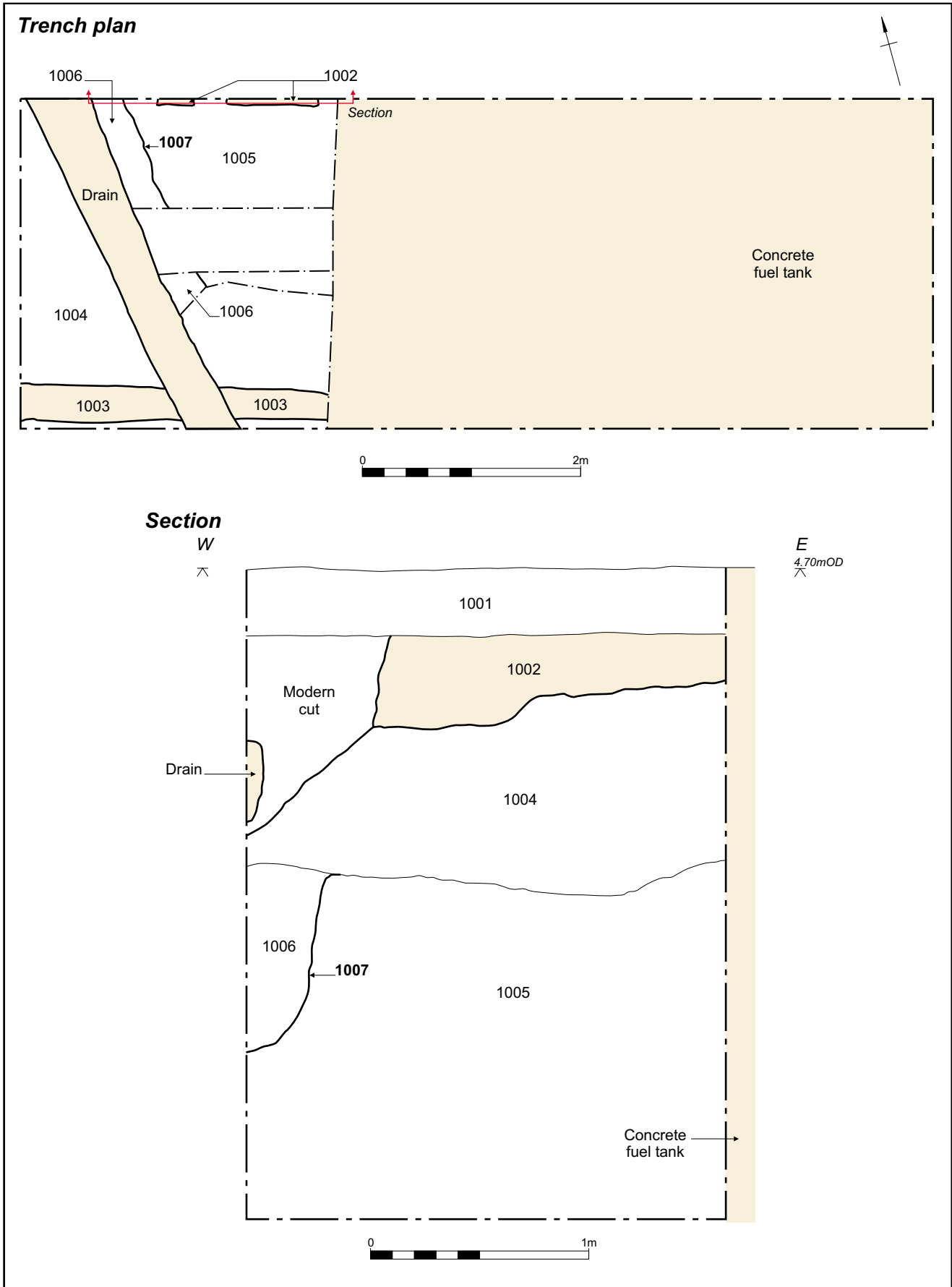
Entered by C Butterworth (c.butterworth@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 12 January 2005



Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



MOL#: LBO04 	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	07/12/04	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	Plan = 1:50, Section = 1:25 @ A4	Illustrator:	MR
	Path:	Y:\Projects\58500\Drawing Office\Report Figures (04-12)\Evaluation		

Trench plan and representative section

Figure 2



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

London Office: Unit 113, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 london-info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

