



THE PHILBERDS, ASCOT ROAD HOLYPORT, BERKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

**THE PHILBERDS, ASCOT ROAD,
HOLYPORT, BERKSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared on behalf of

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**THE PHILBERDS, ASCOT ROAD
HOLYPORT, BERKSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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**THE PHILBERDS, ASCOT ROAD
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

Non Technical Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Cliveden Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land proposed for redevelopment at The Philberds, Ascot Road, Holyport, Berkshire (the Site), centred on NGR 489501/178300.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of fourteen trenches, varying between 2m and 20m in length, the observation of the grubbing out of the foundations and services of Philberds House and the observation and recording of five geotechnical test pits.

The object of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence of archaeological deposits/structures on the site and if present to establish their date, location, nature and state of preservation.

No archaeological finds or features were detected in any part of the evaluation, the watching brief or during the monitoring of the geotechnical test pits.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Philip Beale of Cliveden Homes for commissioning the project. The help and advice of Fiona Macdonald, Archaeological Advisor to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, is also gratefully acknowledged.

Cornelius Barton, Cai Mason, Stephen George and Reuben Thorpe carried out the fieldwork. Reuben Thorpe managed the project for Wessex Archaeology. Cornelius Barton prepared the report with contributions by Reuben Thorpe, the illustrations are by Mark Roughly.

THE PHILBERDS, ASCOT ROAD, HOLYPORT, BERKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of Document

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Cliveden Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land proposed for redevelopment at The Philberds, Ascot Road, Holyport, NGR 489501/178300 (The Site). This document details the results of the evaluation, the archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits and the removal of the foundations and slab of Philberds House.

1.2 Planning Background

- 1.2.1 A planning application (04/00803/FULL) consent was granted for the demolition of an extant, fire damaged, dwelling on the Site and its replacement with eight, two-bedroom flats plus ancillary parking.
- 1.2.2 The location of the Site, within the medieval settlement of Holyport, led the Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) to recommend that an intrusive archaeological evaluation, encompassing 6% of the area to be affected by development, should be undertaken (**Figure 2**).
- 1.2.3 The purpose of the evaluation and archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits was to help determine the need for mitigation of archaeological deposits in advance of construction.

1.3 Site Description

- 1.3.1 The Site lies on the northeastern edge of the village of Holyport, in Bray Parish, approximately three miles to the north west of Windsor.
- 1.3.2 The Site covers an area of some 0.7 Ha, although the area which will be affected by groundworks associated with development covers over two thirds of that area, some 4869m² (**Figure 1 & 2**).
- 1.3.3 The Site is generally flat and lies between 26m and 27m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the junction of the London Clay where it overlies the Reading beds. Taplow gravels are present to the north.

1.4 Stages of Archaeological works

- 1.4.1 Previous, desk-based, work on Philberds/Lodge farm (Wessex Archaeology 2002: 52091.01) adjacent and to the southwest of the Site, in support of an earlier, unsuccessful, planning application, suggested that there was the

potential for the preservation of buried remains within the grounds and surrounds of Philberds/Lodge Farm.

- 1.4.2 A separate planning application (see section 1.2.1), to develop the Site under consideration in this report, was subject to an archaeological condition (6) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works prior to development.
- 1.4.3 In compliance with this condition an initial watching brief was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology during the excavation of seven geo-technical test pits in November 2004 (Wessex Archaeology 2004: report reference 58490.01). This preliminary watching brief did not reveal any archaeological entities and the report is appended to this document as **Appendix 3**.
- 1.4.4 The initial watching brief was to be followed, at a later date, by the archaeological monitoring of the grubbing out of foundations following the demolition of Philberds House (**Figure 2**). In turn this was to be immediately followed by a subsequent stage of intrusive archaeological evaluation.
- 1.4.5 The evaluation was undertaken during February 2005 and comprised the excavation of fourteen evaluation trenches. The monitoring of five additional geotechnical test pits, excavated by the clients' contractors within the area which will be unaffected by redevelopment (**Figure 2**) was also undertaken.
- 1.4.6 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Project Design prepared by Wessex Archaeology in London (2005 Report Reference 58490.02) approved in advance by Fiona McDonald the Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM).

1.5 Aims and Objectives

- 1.5.1 The aims of the evaluation was to:
 - Identify the presence/absence and characterise the nature, date, extent and state of preservation of any underlying archaeological deposits.
 - Identify the depth of burial (and thus the depth of sensitivity) of any underlying archaeological deposits or features.
 - Retrieve stratified assemblages of finds and ecofacts where/if present or preserved.

1.6 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.6.1 The Site lies adjacent to Philberds or Lodge Farm (**Figure 1**), the site of a Manor House of the Philberds family. The manor itself is first recorded in AD 1208 (Wessex Archaeology 2002: 52091.01).
- 1.6.2 The Site also lies within the bounds of the medieval settlement of Holyport.

- 1.6.3 Previous, desk-based work on Philberds/Lodge Farm (Ibid) suggested some limited potential for the preservation of buried remains within the surrounds of Philberds Farm, including the Site.

2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 Health and Safety

- 2.1.1 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.
- 2.1.2 Prior to the commencement of the works a risk assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2005: Report Ref 58490.03) was carried out and staff were briefed about site health and safety requirements.

2.2 Fieldwork

- 2.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (as amended 2001). The works were in compliance with the *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* (Babtie 2004) produced for RBWM and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2004 Report Ref. 58490.02), submitted to the Client and AA and approved prior to commencement of the work.
- 2.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of fourteen trenches between 20m and 2m long.
- 2.2.3 An extensive area of truncation, to the level of the underlying natural, caused by the construction of Philberds House and associated services, was witnessed during a watching brief during the grubbing out of the foundations. This truncation obviated the need to site trenches within the footprint of the building itself, as originally proposed in the WSI, and reduced the area available for evaluation trenching to 4631m² but increased the area archaeologically examined by 265m².
- 2.2.4 The excavated evaluation trenches varied between 36m² and 3.2m² and examined an area of 192.82m² or 3.96% of the Site area to be affected by development. When augmented with the area observed during the removal of the foundations of Philberds House a total area of 487.82m² or 10.01% of the area to be affected by development was archaeologically observed.
- 2.2.5 Underground services were detected across several areas of the Site and as a result trenches were placed slightly differently to the layout suggested in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2004 Report Ref. 58490.02).
- 2.2.6 The Geotechnical test pits were excavated with an archaeologist present who then recorded the resulting soil profile and any possible archaeological

features. Five geotechnical test pits were opened to the northeast of Philberds House comprising an area of 28.18m².

- 2.2.7 All trenches were opened to archaeological deposits (where present) or natural geological deposits (where archaeological deposits were absent) by mechanical excavator operating under continuous archaeological supervision.
- 2.2.8 All spoil from the excavations was scanned visually for artefacts, as were the alluvial clays and natural sands and gravel deposits.
- 2.2.9 The trenches were located on the ground by tape measurements from boundaries and buildings present on large scale Ordnance Survey maps.
- 2.2.10 All revealed archaeological deposits were investigated by hand and recorded on Wessex Archaeology pre-printed standard recording forms. A plan and representative section of each Trench was recorded by means of drawings at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections (**Figure 3**).
- 2.2.11 A full, digital, monochrome and colour 35mm photographic record was also compiled.
- 2.2.12 All the trenches were backfilled at the end of work following consultation with Fiona Macdonald, the AA of RBWM.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section narrates and interprets the sequences of deposition within the evaluation trenches and geotechnical test pits. Detailed descriptions of the contexts recorded in each trench are reproduced in **Appendix 1**.

3.2 Deposit Sequence and Stratigraphy

- 3.2.1 In summary; the sequence of deposits on site as attested by the evaluation trenches, the watching brief and the geotechnical test pits, represents topsoil formation through garden cultivation (**100, 200, 300, 401, 501, 600, 701, 801, 1201, 1301**) typically characterised as dark brown, or dark greyish brown, silty loam.
- 3.2.2 The upper levels of trenches 10 and 11 (**1001, 1101**) represent gravel make up for road surfacing on the access road to the Site (**Figures 2 & 3**).
- 3.2.3 Below the topsoil, brick built drains dating to the 19th century or later were encountered in trenches 1 and 2 (**Figure 2**).
- 3.2.4 Modern refuse pits were encountered below the topsoil in Trench 5 and Test Pit 8 (**Figure 2**).

- 3.2.5 Modern garden features such as tree/shrub planting pits and bedding trenches were encountered below the topsoil in trenches 2 and 3 and test pits 8 and 12 (**Figures 2 & 5 & 6**).
- 3.2.6 In all other trenches the topsoil directly overlies the subsoil (**204, 303, 402, 702, 1402, 1502, 1602, 1702, 1802**).
- 3.2.7 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in any of the trenches.
- 3.2.8 The watching brief mounted during the removal of the foundations of Philberds House revealed that the entire footprint of the house and ancillary structure, adjacent to the northwest, had entirely removed the topsoil and subsoil to the level of the natural.
- 3.2.9 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the Watching Brief.

4 FINDS

- 4.1 The only artefacts recovered on the Site were of modern origin. These were noted but not retained.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

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

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The results of the evaluation indicate that there are no remains of archaeological significance in the area affected by the proposed development. The presence of the various features associated with the former gardens such as bedding trenches and planting pits has been demonstrated within the areas immediately adjacent to the former house. These features however are of no archaeological merit in themselves.

7 ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The project archive, consisting of an A4 lever-arch file and a collection of photographs, is currently being held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Unit 113, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London, under the project number 58490. In due course the archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum.

8 REFERENCES

- Babtie 2004 *The Philberds, Ascot Rd, Holyport, Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*

Wessex Archaeology	2002	<i>The Philberds, Ascot Road, Holyport. .</i> Unpublished Desk-based assessment. Report Reference 520091.01
Wessex Archaeology	2005	<i>The Philberds, Ascot Road, Holyport: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation</i> Unpublished WSI. Report Reference 58490.02

Trench Number: 1		Dimensions: 10.8 x 1.8m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
100	Mid grey-brown sandy loam	Topsoil/ <i>in situ</i> Soil formation	0m
101	Circular brick structure	Drain construction	0.45m
102	Mid-brown silty sand	Natural	0.20m

Trench Number:2		Dimensions: 20 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
200	Dark grey-brown sandy loam	Topsoil/ <i>in situ</i> Soil formation	0m
201	Circular brick structure	Drain construction	0.20m
202	Mid orange-brown silty sand-fill of 203	Drain use.	0.20m
203	NW-SE linear	Drain construction trench	0.20m
204	Mid orange-brown silty sand	Subsoil/Plough soil	0.22m
205	Pale orange sand with gravel	Natural	0.65m

Trench Number:3		Dimensions 15.3 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
300	Dark grey-brown sandy loam	Topsoil/ <i>in situ</i> Soil formation	0m
301	Orange-brown silty sand with gravel- fill of 302	Bedding trench use	0.20m
302	NW-SE aligned shallow cut	Garden bedding trench	0.20m
303	Mid orange-brown silty sand	Subsoil	0.20m
304	Mid reddish-brown sand	Natural	0.65m

Trench Number:4		Dimensions 6.3 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
401	Mid brown sandy loam	Topsoil/ <i>in situ</i> Soil formation	0m
402	Mid brown sand with gravel	Subsoil/plough soil	70mm
403	Dark yellow brown sandy gravel	Geological natural	0.29m

Trench Number 5		Dimensions 3.4 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
501	Dark brown sandy loam	Topsoil/ <i>in situ</i> Soil formation	0m
502	Dark yellow-brown sandy gravel	Geological natural	50mm
503	Mid brown sandy gravel and modern refuse- fill of 504	Use of pit	0.15m
504	Sub-circular cut	Construction of Pit	0.15m

Trench Number 6		Dimensions 15 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
600	Dark grey-brown sandy loam	Topsoil/ <i>in situ</i> Soil formation	0m
601	mid orange-brown silty sand	Geological Natural	0.20m

Trench Number 7		Dimensions 8.6 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
701	Dark brown sandy loam	Topsoil/ <i>in situ</i> Soil formation	0m
702	Mid brown sandy gravel	Subsoil/plough soil	0.14m
703	Dark yellow-brown sandy gravel	Geological Natural	0.36m

Trench Number 8		Dimensions 15 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
801	Dark brown sandy loam	Topsoil/ <i>in situ</i> Soil formation	0m
802	Dark yellow-brown sandy gravel	Geological Natural	0.22m
803	Dark yellow gravel	Geological Natural	0.51m

Trench Number 9		Dimensions 2.1 x 3m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
900	Asphalt	Road construction	0m
901	Dark brown gravel with modern debris	Levelling up for road construction	0.2m
902	Dark yellow-brown gravel	Geological Natural	0.3m

Trench number 10		Dimensions 2.2m x 3.1m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
1001	Dark brown gravel with modern debris	Levelling up for road construction	0m
1002	Dark yellow-brown sandy gravel	Geological Natural	0.60m

Trench number 11		Dimensions 2.0 x 3.1m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
1100	Asphalt	Road construction	0m
1101	Dark brown gravel with modern debris	Levelling up for road construction	0.20m
1102	Dark yellow-brown sandy gravel	Geological Natural	0.70m

Trench number 12		Dimensions 2.0 x 2.95m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
1201	Dark brown sandy loam	<i>In Situ</i> soil formation/ Topsoil	0m
1202	Dark yellow-brown sandy gravel	Geological Natural	0.68m

Trench number 13		Dimensions 2.0 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
1301	Dark brown sandy loam	<i>In Situ</i> soil formation/ Topsoil	0m
1302	Dark yellow-brown sandy gravel	Geological Natural	0.70m

Trench number 14		Dimensions 7.0 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
1901	Dark brown sandy loam	<i>In Situ</i> soil formation/ Topsoil	0m
1902	Dark yellow-brown clay with gravel	Geological Natural	90 mm
1903	Dark yellow gravel	Geological Natural	0.46m

Test Pit 8		Dimensions 3.8 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
1401	Dark brown sandy loam	<i>In Situ</i> soil formation/ Topsoil	0m
1402	Dark yellow-brown sandy clay loam	Subsoil	80mm
1403	East-west aligned cut	Trench/Ditch Construction	0.16m
1404	Mid grey silty clay fill of 1403	Trench Use/Disuse	0.16m
1405	Dark yellow-brown sandy gravel	Geological Natural	0.35m
1406	Dark yellow clay	Geological Natural	0.43m
1407	Mid grey-brown silty clay with ash and debris	Rubbish dumping event	80mm

Test Pit 9		Dimensions 3.9x1.3 m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
1501	Dark brown sandy clay silt with frequent stones	<i>In Situ</i> soil formation/ Topsoil	0m
1502	Mid brown silty clay	Subsoil	0.21m
1503	Broad oval cut	Pit/ construction	0.49m
1504	Dark brown sandy clay	Fill/ disuse	0.49m
1505	Dark yellow gravel	Geological natural	1.01m
1506	Dark yellow gravel		1.12m

Test Pit 10		Dimensions 4.4 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
1601	Dark red-brown silty clay	<i>In Situ</i> soil formation/ Topsoil	0m
1602	Mid brown silty clay	Subsoil	0.21m
1603	Dark reddish-yellow clay with gravel	Geological natural	0.46m
1604	Dark yellow gravel	Geological natural	1.02m+

Test Pit 11		Dimensions 3.5 x 1.3m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
1701	Dark red-brown sandy clay silt	<i>In Situ</i> soil formation/ Topsoil	0m
1702	Mid-brown sandy clay silt	Subsoil	0.24m
1703	Broad cut	Pit/ construction	0.41m
1704	Grey clay silt	Pit use/Disuse	0.41m
1705	Dark yellow-brown clay with gravel	Geological natural	0.41m
1706	Dark yellow clay	Geological natural	0.69m
1707	Dark yellow gravel	Geological natural	0.82m

Test Pit 12		Dimensions 3.4 x 1.6m	
Context	Description	Keyword	Depth Below ground level
1801	Dark red-brown silty clay	<i>In Situ</i> soil formation/ Topsoil	0m
1802	Mid brown silty clay	Subsoil	0.21m
1803	Dark reddish-yellow clay with gravel	Geological natural	0.39m
1804	Dark reddish-yellow gravel	Geological natural	1.14m

10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-7885

Project details

Project name The Philberds, Ascot Road, Holyport, Berkshire: evaluation

Short description of the project The evaluation comprised the excavation of fourteen trenches, observation of the grubbing out of the foundations and services of Philberds House and observation and recording of five geotechnical test pits. No archaeological finds or features were found in any part of the evaluation, watching brief or during monitoring of the test pits.

Project dates Start: 01-02-2005 End: 25-02-2005

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 58490 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes 52091 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes 04/00803/FULL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

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

Project location

Country England

Site location BERKSHIRE WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD BRAY The Philberds, Ascot Road, Holyport, Berkshire

Study area 0.70 Hectares

National grid reference SU 89501 78300 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project design originator Wessex Archaeology

Project director/manager R. Thorpe

Project supervisor C. Barton

Sponsor or funding body Developer

Project archives

Paper Archive recipient Reading Museums Service

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','other'

Paper Media available 'Contextsheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unspecified Archive'

Project bibliography 1 Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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**11 APPENDIX 3: THE PHILBERDS, HOLYPORT, BERKSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**THE PHILBERDS, HOLYPORT,
BERKSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

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November 2004

THE PHILBERDS, HOLYPORT, BERKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT November 2004

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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Philip Beale of Cliveden Homes (the Client) for commissioning the work and David Norman of GEA for their assistance in facilitating archaeological recording during the excavation of the geotechnical pits.

This report has been prepared by Reuben Thorpe (Project Manager), from texts and field notes prepared by Barry Hennesy (Project Supervisor). Further thanks are also afforded to Chris Brayne (IT Manager at Wessex Archaeology) for assisting Mr. Hennesy in the execution and manipulation of his texts.

Non-technical Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of seven geotechnical pits at The Philberds, Ascot Road,. Holyport, Berkshire (the Site) centred on NGR 489505/178303 on 12th November 2004.

The Site lies within an historic landscape, some 200 metres to the northeast of Philberds Farm, the former location of the manor house of the Philberds family, which is first recorded in 1208. The extant Philberds farm has previously been subject to an Historic Appraisal (Wessex Archaeology 2002, report ref 52091.01) which demonstrated the potential for the preservation of below ground archaeological deposits related to the medieval and later occupation of the manor and adjacent areas.

As the Site under consideration in this report lies adjacent to the north of Philberds Farm, the Client requested that a representative of Wessex Archaeology attend during geotechnical investigations, this requirement was confirmed by Fiona Macdonald, the Archaeological Advisor to the Windsor and Maidenhead Council.

Archaeological observation consisted, in this instance, of the observation and recording of seven geotechnical pits excavated in the gardens around the dwelling known as The Philberds. No deposits or structures of archaeological note were encountered.

THE PHILBERDS, HOLYPORT, BERKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT November 2004

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical trial pitting in advance of foundation scheme design at The Philberds, Ascot Road, Holyport, Berkshire NGR 489505/178303 (the Site) by Cliveden Homes.

1.1.2 Planning consent 04/00803/FULL, has been granted for the construction of eight, two bedroom flats on the Site. A condition within the Planning Consent (6) states that:

The site has the potential to contain medieval remains. No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work....

1.1.3 As the Site lay adjacent to Philberds farm (see section 1.4 below), the archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits was deemed appropriate by Fiona Macdonald, the archaeological advisor (AA) to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The Site lies on the northeastern edge of the village of Holyport, in Bray Parish, some three miles to the northwest of Windsor centred NGR 489505/178303.

1.3 Landform, Geology and Soils

1.3.1 The Site covers an area of some 0.7 Ha, is generally flat and lies between 26m and 27m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.3.2 The Site lies at the junction of London Clay overlying Reading Beds with Taplow gravels present to the north.

1.4 Archaeological Background

1.4.1 The Site lies adjacent, to the northeast, to Philberds or Lodge Farm, the site of a Manor House of the Philberds family. The manor itself is first recorded in AD 1208.

1.4.2 Previous, desk-based, work on Philberds/Lodge farm (Wessex Archaeology 2002: 52091.01) has suggested that there is potential for the preservation of buried remains within the grounds and surrounds of Philberds Farm.

1.5 Aims and Objectives

- 1.5.1 The aim of the watching brief was principally to record the presence/absence of archaeological deposits or structures and retrieve any artefacts encountered during the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Methodological Standards

- 2.1.1 Throughout the watching brief the methodological standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, (revised 1999) were adhered to.

2.2 Health and Safety

- 2.2.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times.
- 2.2.2 All works were carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and the Management of Health and Safety regulations (1992), as well as all other current and relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice.
- 2.2.3 A risk assessment was prepared by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

2.3 Fieldwork

- 2.3.1 Fieldwork consisted of the archaeological observation and monitoring of the machine excavation of seven geotechnical test pits.
- 2.3.2 The soil profile and depth of each test pit was recorded on Wessex Archaeology pro-forma Trench Recording sheets.
- 2.3.3 A digital photographic record of the soil profile of each geotechnical pit was also compiled.
- 2.3.4 The details of the sequence of each geotechnical trial pit are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Deposit Sequence and Stratigraphy

- 3.1.1 Generally speaking the soil profiles in each of the geotechnical test pits was characterised by a surface layer of top soil (**100;200;300;400;500;600;700**) representing garden or cultivation deposits dating to at least the Victorian period circa 1877 when Philberds was built.
- 3.1.2 This overlay an inactive plough soil, (**101;201;301;401;501;601;701**), possibly derived from deposits of silts laid sown during seasonal flooding and reworked by subsequent ploughing and garden cultivation.
- 3.1.3. Deposits of silty sand, sandy silt, or clay were also noted (**102;202;302;402;502;702**). These too, possibly derive from seasonal inundation.
- 3.1.2 However, geotechnical pits **4** and **6** revealed deposits of sandy silts (**403; 602**) with pea grits, which displayed evidence of small pieces of burnt flint, charcoal flecking and one, small, highly abraded, fragment of unclassified but probably pre-historic pottery.
- 3.1.3 All other deposits recorded (see **Appendix 1**) represented the geological natural.

4 CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

- 4.1. No visible evidence of archaeological deposits or stratified finds were encountered apart from Victorian disturbance in pit **6**.
- 4.2 It is likely that up until later prehistory, say before BC 1000, the immediate local landscape comprised river gravel terraces which were seasonally inundated.
- 4.3 The putative alluvial silting (**403; 602**) witnessed in geotechnical pits **4** and **6** probably represent fluvial, mixed, deposits of riverine material deposited on these terraces.
- 4.4 Soil deposition, below the subsoil but post dating (**403; 602**) also witnesses waterborne deposition from seasonal inundation possibly until the later Roman Period.

5 THE ARCHIVE

- 5.1 The project archive, consisting of digital photographic images and site notebook is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Unit 113, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London, under the project number 58490. In due course the archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum.

Test pit No. 1	Co-ordinates: Ground Level (m aOD):	Dimensions: 2.40m x 0.60m Max.depth: 2.40m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
100	Mid Greyish Brown slightly sandy silt with frequent root. Top soil.	0m
101	Mid Yellowish Brown sandy clay silt.	0.30m
102	Dark Greyish Brown clay and abundant gravel.	0.60m
103	Very Dark Brown clay silt and abundant gravel with iron pan staining	0.98m
104	Yellowish Brown sand and gravel.	1.30m

Test Pit No. 2	Co-ordinates: Ground Level (m aOD):	Dimensions: 1.90 x 0.60m Max.depth: 2.10m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
200	Mid Greyish Brown sandy silt with frequent root. Top soil.	0m
201	Mid Yellowish Brown sandy clay silt.	0.30m
202	Dark Yellowish Brown clay and abundant gravel.	0.50m
203	Dark Yellowish Brown sandy clay and common gravel.	0.60m
204	Dark Brown sandy clay with iron pan staining.	0.75m
205	Yellowish Brown sand and gravel.	1.00m

Test Pit No. 3	Co-ordinates: Ground Level (m aOD):	Dimensions: 1.90 x 0.60m Max.depth: 2.20m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
300	Mid Yellowish Brown silt with common root. Top soil.	0m
301	Yellowish Brown silt with occasional gravel.	0.20m
302	Light Yellowish Brown silt.	0.40m
303	Mid-Dark Yellowish Brown clay and gravel.	0.60m
304	Very Dark Brown sandy clay and gravel with iron pan staining.	1.00m
305	Yellowish Brown sand and gravel.	1.40m

Test Pit No. 4	Co-ordinates: Ground Level (m aOD):	Dimensions: 2.50x 0.60m Max.depth: 3.30m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
400	Mid Greyish Brown silt with occasional gravel. Top soil.	0m
401	Mid-light Greyish Brown silt with frequent gravel.	0.20m
402	Mid-Dark Greyish Brown clay silt with frequent pea grits.	0.50m
403	Light Yellowish Brown alluvial silt with moderate gravel and pea grits.	0.75m
404	Mid Greyish Brown clay silt with occasional small gravel.	1.20m
405	Mid Greyish Brown clay and gravel.	1.70m
406	Yellowish Brown sand and gravel.	1.90m

Test Pit No. 5	Co-ordinates: Ground Level (m aOD):	Dimensions: 2.40x 0.60m Max.depth: 2.50m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
500	Dark Greyish Brown silt. Top soil.	0m
501	Mid yellowish Brown silt and occasional gravel.	0.20m
502	Light Yellowish Brown silt with occasional gravel and pea grit.	0.55m
503	Dark Yellowish Brown silty clay with occasional pea grit.	0.90m
504	Dark Yellowish Brown clay and abundant gravel.	1.08m
505	Yellowish Brown sand and gravel.	1.30m

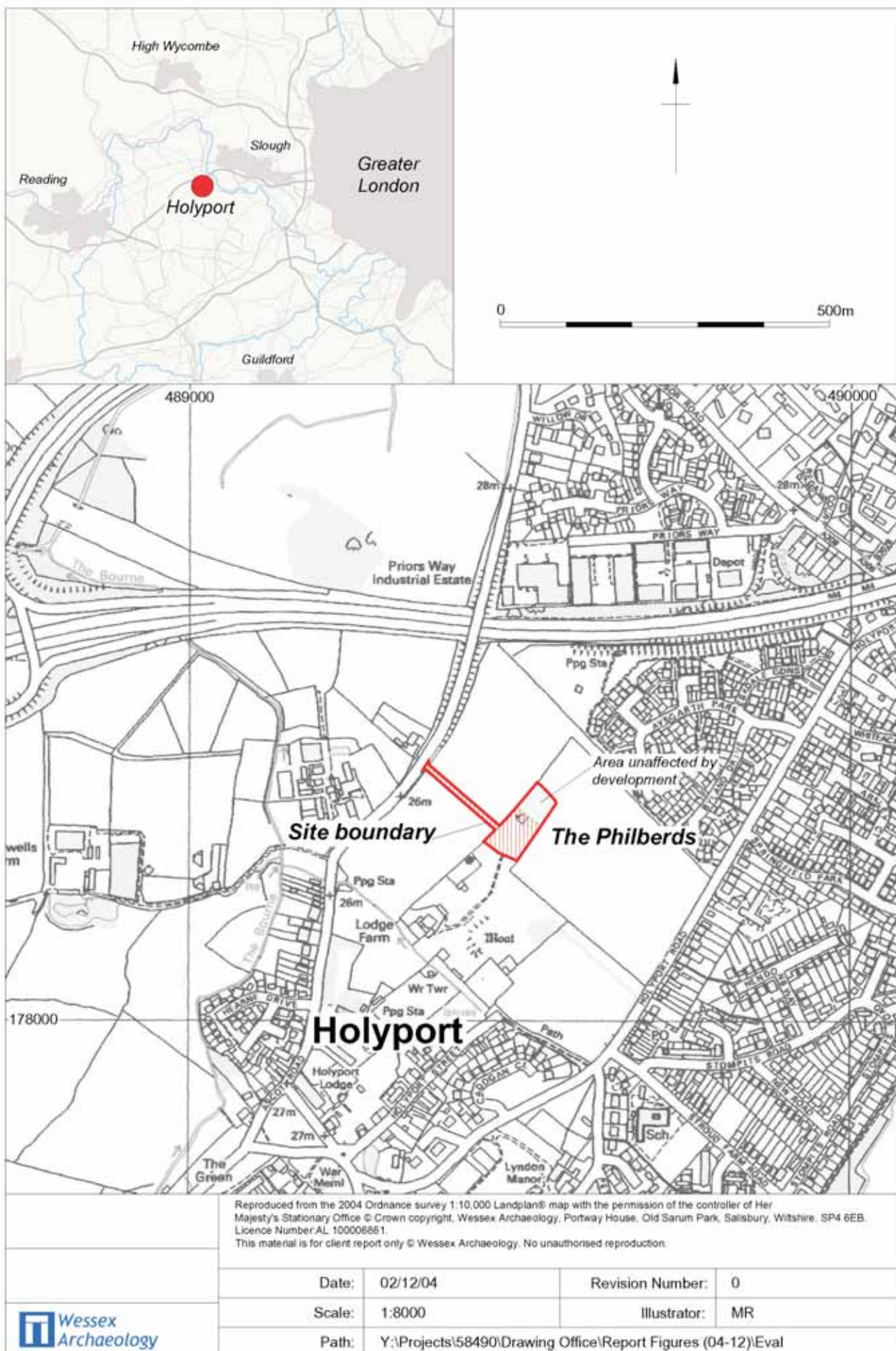
Test Pit No. 6	Co-ordinates: Ground Level (m aOD):	Dimensions: 2.40x 0.60m Max.depth: 2.50m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
600	Dark Greyish Brown and Yellowish Brown silts. Top soil.	0m
601	Dark Greyish Brown silty loam with Victorian inclusions.	0.20m
602	Light Yellowish Brown alluvial silt.	0.65m
603	Dark Yellowish Brown clay and abundant gravel.	1.00m
604	Yellowish Brown sand and gravel.	1.30m
605	Mid Yellowish Brown sand.	2.80m

Test Pit No. 7	Co-ordinates: Ground Level (m aOD):	Dimensions:2.80x 0.60m Max.depth:
Context	Description	Depth (m)
700	Dark Greyish Brown silty loam with frequent root. Top soil.	0m
701	Mid Greyish Brown silt.	0.20m
702	Yellowish Brown alluvial silt .	0.46m
703	Mid Yellowish Brown clay and gravel.	0.85m
704	Dark Yellowish Brown gravel with iron pan staining.	1.00m
705	Yellowish Brown sand and gravel.	1.30m

All archaeological deposits/features shown in **bold**.

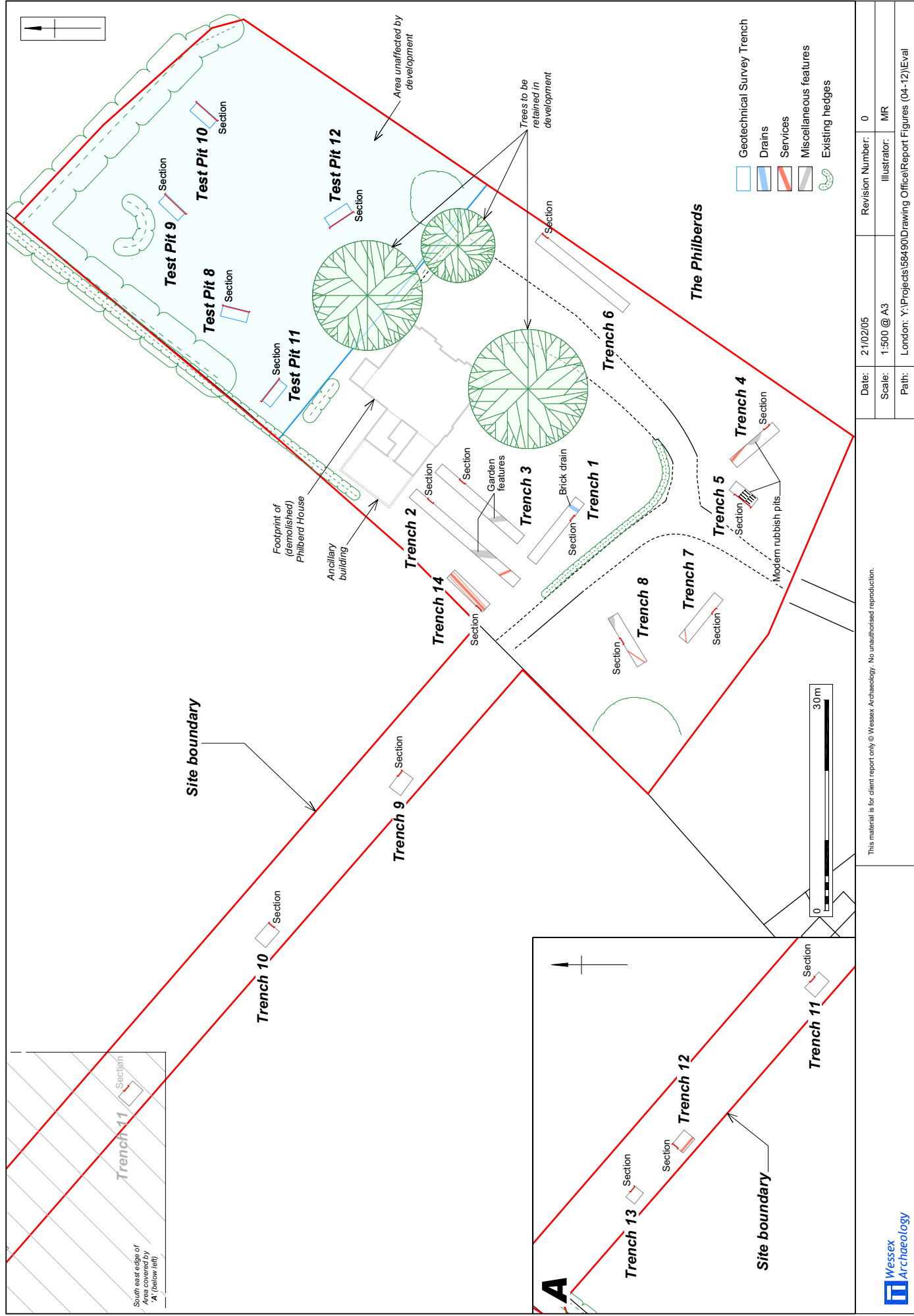
All (+) indicate deposits/features not fully excavated.

'Depth' equals depth from present ground surface.



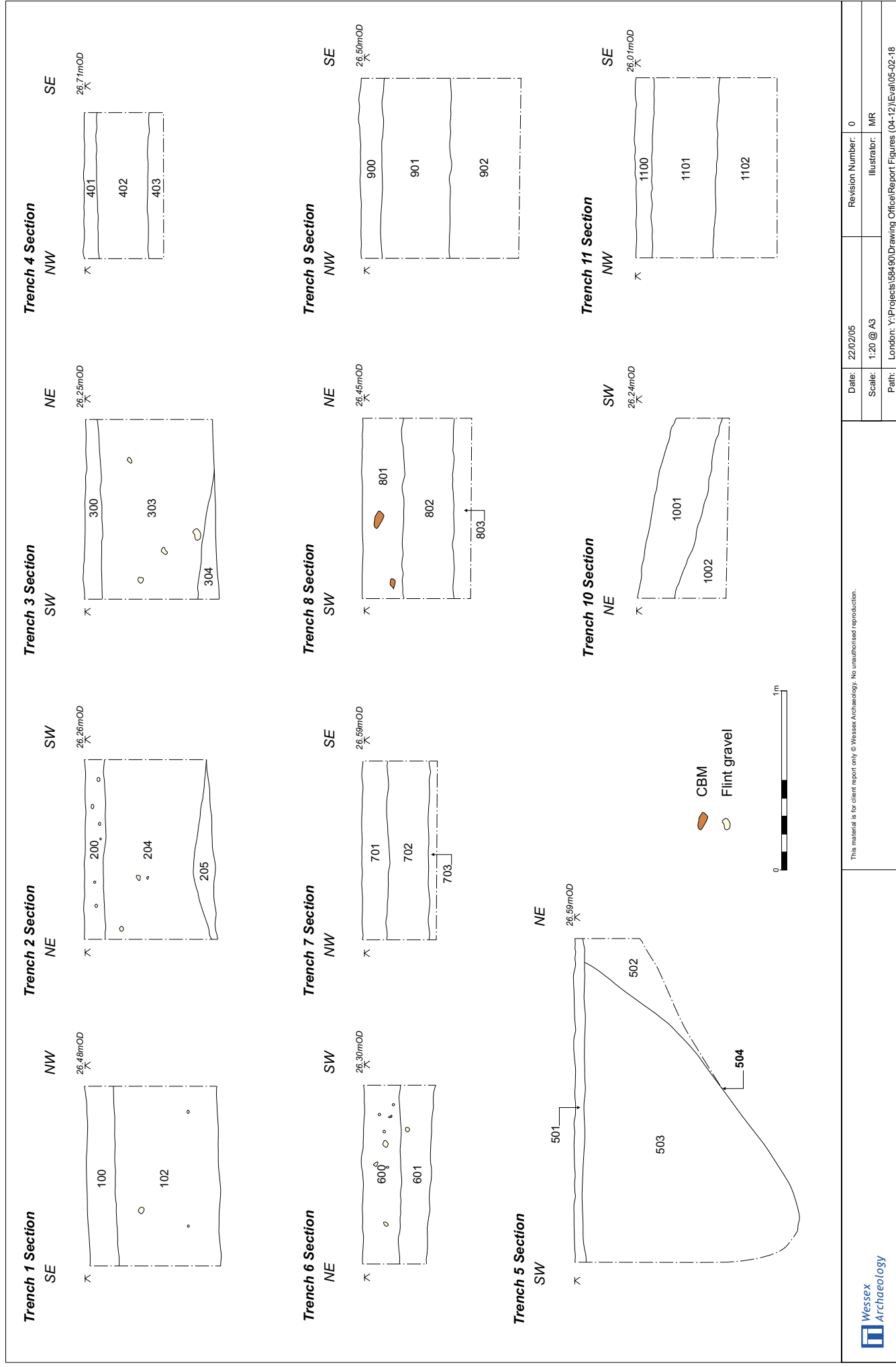
Site location

Figure 1



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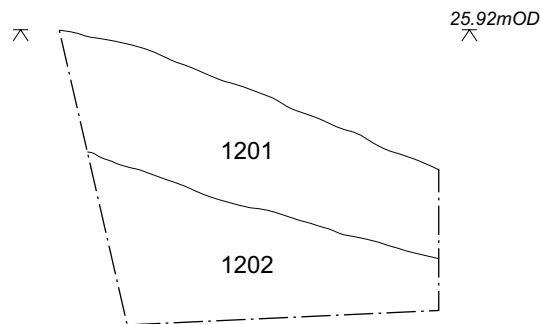
Representative Sections from Trenches 1-11

Figure 3

Trench 12 Section

SW

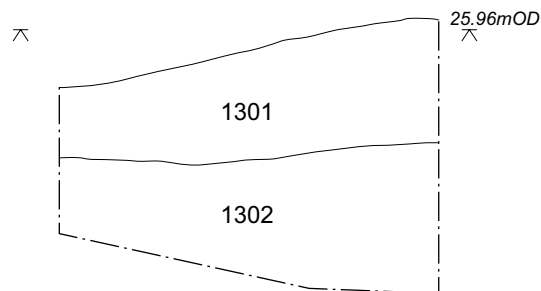
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Trench 13 Section

NW

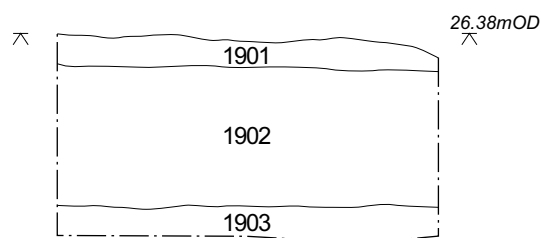
SE



Trench 14 Section

SW

NE



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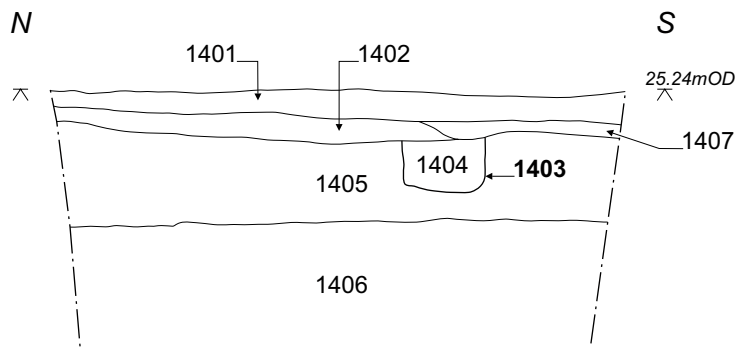
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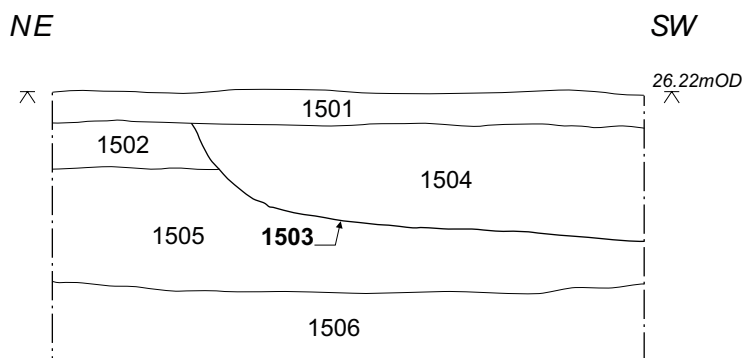
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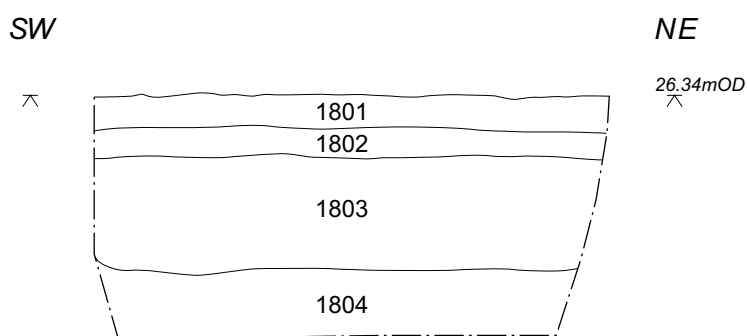
Geotechnical Survey Test Pit 8 - Section



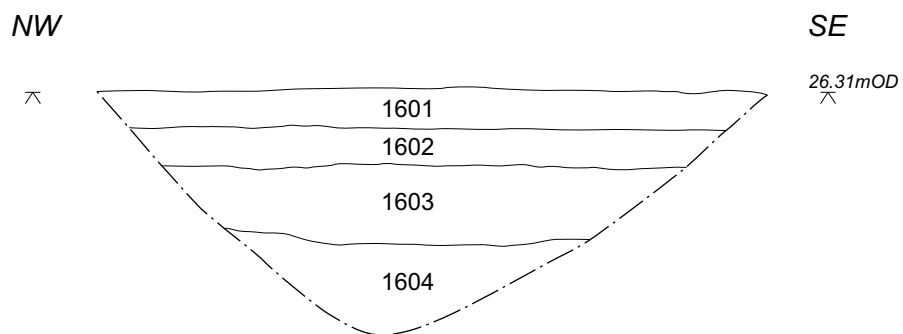
Geotechnical Survey Test Pit 9 - Section



Geotechnical Survey Test Pit 10 - Section



Geotechnical Survey Test Pit 11 - Section



Geotechnical Survey Test Pit 12 - Section

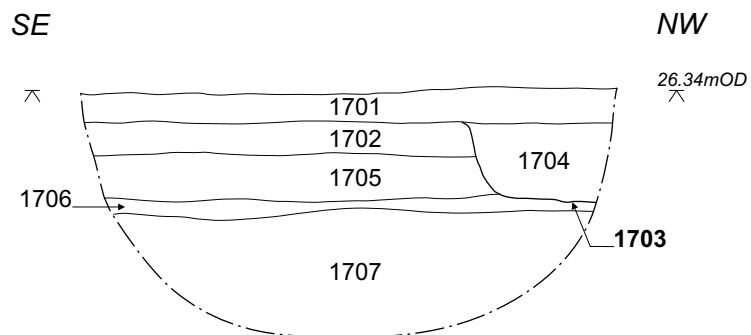




Figure 7: Representative section from Trench 6, taken from northwest (Scale - 1m)



Figure 8: Trench 8 taken from southeast, showing water pipe (Scale - 1m)



Figure 9: West facing section from Test Pit 8 (Scale - 1m)



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