GREAT ORMOND HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT
Phase 2B
New Cardiac Wing
Great Ormond Street
London WC1

London Borough of Camden

Evaluation report

August 2014

MOLA

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Great Ormond Street Hospital Redevelopment Phase 2B, New Cardiac Wing Great Ormond Street LondonWC1

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Report on archaeological evaluation

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by MOLA at Great Ormond Street Hospital ('the site'). The report was commissioned from MOLA by Skanska on behalf of the client Great Ormond Street Hospital.

In accordance with the preceding Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2014), two evaluation trenches were excavated on the site on 4th and 5th of August 2014. These were located within an area of open hardstanding shown as Area E in this report. The investigated area is positioned to the south of the existing cardiac wing where the approved Phase 2B development will take place.

Natural gravel was recorded between 19.30m and 19.60m OD. These deposits were truncated by three cut features: two of which dated to the late 19th or 20th century and a third was found to be a modern deposit. No archaeological deposits were present.

In the light of the results of the evaluation exercise, MOLA considers that it is unlikely that any archaeological deposits survive within the footprint of Area E. This report recommends that no further archaeological work is deemed to be necessary within the Phase 2b areas of the site.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by MOLA at Great Ormond Street Hospital ('the site') on 4th and 5th of August 2014 (*Fig 1*). This document presents the results of that work.

1.1.2 A desk based *Archaeological Impact Assessment* was previously prepared by MOLA (MoLAS), which covered the whole area of the site (MoLAS 2006). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential

1.1.3 Following the recommendations of the previous archaeological impact assessment (MoLAS 2006) an earlier phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken as part of an earlier (Phase 2A) development (MOLA 2009). The results of this work are summarised in section 2.2 of this report

1.2 Planning background

1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the evaluation took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (see Section 1.2, MOLA 2014).

1.2.2 The evaluation was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by the Local Authority (Consent reference 2007/4116/P; Condition number 11 relative to archaeology). The condition requires:

> No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. A suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the local planning authority shall carry out the archaeological works.
>
> REASON: Important archaeological remains may exist on the site. Accordingly the Council wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development in accordance with the requirements of policy B8 of the Camden Replacement Unitary Development Plan 2006.

1.3 Scope of the evaluation

1.3.1 Evaluation is defined by English Heritage as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- *formulation of an* appropriate *response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or*

- *formulation of a* proposal *for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research*

1.3.2 An archaeological evaluation is a limited fieldwork exercise designed to test the conclusions of preliminary desk based work. It is not the same as full excavation.

1.3.3 The evaluation was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for evaluation specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2008).

1.3.4 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the

Museum of London's A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002.

1.3.5 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the evaluation (MOLA 2014, Section 1.7).

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1.1 A detailed description of the geology, topography, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the earlier Archaeological desk-based assessment (MOLA 2006). A brief summary of the results of the previous (Phase 2a) archaeological evaluation is provided here:

2.2 Results of the Phase 2A evaluation

2.2.1 An evaluation pit was excavated in the location of the proposed construction crane base (in Area C, not illustrated). The evaluation trench exposed the surface of natural terrace gravels at *c* 19.30m OD, beneath *c* 0.6m of firm mid brown clay silt. This was truncated vertically by concrete foundations and horizontally by modern made ground supporting overlying current floor slab at 20.5m OD.

2.2.2 Area D was excavated after initial clearance of the concrete slab. Natural truncated terrace gravels were recorded at 18.32m OD. This was overlain by 0.6m of disturbed ground consisting of re-deposited silty clays mixed with 19th-20th century brick rubble. Above it, modern made ground overlain by current floor slab at *c* 19.97m OD.

2.2.3 Where truncation had occurred from previous foundations, this was seen to have locally removed all deposits into natural gravels. No archaeological features were observed.

3 Evaluation methodology

3.1 Field methodology

3.1.1 Two evaluation trenches measuring 2m by 2m were excavated within Area E (Fig 2). The area is located to the south of the existing cardiac wing where the proposed Phase 2B development will be undertaken. The approved development involves the partial demolition and refurbishment of existing cardiac wing. The existing building will also be extended into Area E.

3.1.2 The tarmac was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors and monitored by a MOLA Senior Archaeologist.

3.1.3 All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2014).

3.1.4 Trench locations were recorded on site by MOLA Senior Archaeologist by offsetting measurements from the surrounding standing buildings. Both interventions were plotted on a plan provided by the clients agent (Dwg. No 26_2B-10, Llewelyn Davies) and subsequently tied to the OS grid by the MOLA Geomatics team.

3.1.5 Level data for the current floor slab was provided by the client on site.

3.2 Recording methodology

3.2.1 A written and drawn record of all relevant deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2014).

3.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	2
Number of overall location plans	1
Number of Context (SU) sheets	9
Number of photographs	25
Number of Sections	4

4 Results of the evaluation

For trench and section locations please refer to Fig 2

4.1 Trench 1

Location	Western part of Area E
Dimensions	2m by 2m by 1.4m depth
Modern ground level	c. 20m OD
Base of modern fill	19.64m OD
Depth of deposit stratigraphy above natural	0.46m OD
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	19.2m OD
Top of surviving natural observed at	19.6m OD
Level of base of trench	18.6m OD

4.1.1 Natural terrace gravels were observed at 19.6m OD. These deposits were cut by a shallow feature [9] at the north of the trench. Excavation of this feature produced a grey brown sandy clay [8] (Fig 3) that although undated its mixed composition suggests that this it is likely to be of 20th century date. This feature was sealed by a gravelly sand deposit [7] overlain by modern made ground.

4.2 Trench 2

Location	Eastern part of Area E
Dimensions	2m by 2m by 1.70m depth
Modern ground level	*c* 20m OD
Base of modern fill	Between 19.3m and 19.1m OD
Depth of deposit stratigraphy above natural	1.4m
Level of base of lowest features observed	18.3m OD
Top of surviving natural observed at	19.3m OD
Level of base of trench	18.3m OD

4.2.1 Natural terrace gravels [6] were observed at 19.30m OD in this trench. This deposit was notable as it had been discoloured by a series of modern potentially contaminated deposits cut into the natural substrate. Two deep cut features of this type were recorded. Feature [5] extended outside the limits of the trench and was filled with a brown silty clay [4] that contained building material and mortar. A small assemblage of 19th-20th century pottery was recovered from pit [5] (this material was not retained). A second pit [3] of 20th century date was encountered at *c* 19.7m OD. This feature contained similar material and it was noted that the fills were oderous when excavated, suggesting contamination from a hydrocarbon substance or oil based deposit. A clayey gravel deposit [1] also of modern date, sealed pit [5].

4.2.2 Sealing all the above features and deposits was a layer of modern rubble. .

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Answering original research aims

What is the nature and level of natural topography at the site?

- Natural terraced gravels were observed at c 19.6m OD at its highest in this part of the site. During the previous (Phase 2a) evaluation (MoLAS 2009) natural deposits were encountered at 18.3 and 19.3m OD suggesting that the site lies on a relatively level plateau within the Lynch Hill gravel terraces

What are the earliest deposits identified?

Natural terrace gravels are the earliest deposit identified on site. These were cut by features [3] and [5] both dated from the 19th-20th centuries.

Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity on the site?

- There was no evidence indicating prehistoric activity within the site.

What evidence is there for Saxon/medieval activity on the site?

- There was no evidence of Saxon or medieval activity within the site.

What are the latest deposits identified?

- The latest deposits recorded are not archaeological, comprising a number of large and deep cut features sealed by modern made ground and tarmac.

What is the extent of modern disturbance?

- Modern disturbance is extensive and was encountered throughout the trenches. The depth of these deposits varied between c 0.40m in Trench 1 to 1.70m in Trench 2. A modern cut feature containing contaminated deposits was directly cut into the natural gravels. The full extent and depth of the deposits extended outside the limits of the excavation.

5.2 General discussion of potential

5.2.1 The evaluation has shown that there is low to no potential for archaeological deposit survival within Area E (Fig 7). Natural gravel was recorded between 0.40m and 0.70m below ground level and as reported previously substantial modern truncation was recorded throughout the trenches. These deposits when extrapolated across the area are likely to have removed much or all of any archaeological deposits from the site.

5.2.2 The average depth of archaeological deposits, if they did survive, is likely to be between 0.20m and 0.40m above natural gravel.

5.3 Significance

5.3.1 The deposits recorded are considered to have a very limited local significance. There is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5.4 Assessment of the evaluation

5.4.1 The Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) carry out an assessment of the success of the evaluation in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy.

5.4.2 In the case of this site, two evaluation trenches were excavated within Area E. Natural gravel was recorded between 0.40 and 0.70m below the ground level. This was truncated by three late post-medieval cut features: two dated to the 19th-20th century and one determined to be modern. No earlier archaeological deposits were present. Modern truncation is likely to have removed any deposit sequence down to the natural strata.

5.4.3 In conclusion, given that natural deposits were reached in both trenches and that the sequential nature of the deposits above it were fully recorded, a high degree of confidence can be placed on the results of the archaeological evaluation.

Proposed development impact and conclusions

5.4.4 The proposed Phase B redevelopment involves the partial demolition and refurbishment of existing cardiac wing and the construction of an extension that will occupy Area E.

5.4.5 The extension will be constructed over piled foundations, which would remove archaeological remains within the footprint of each pile. Archaeological deposits, if present, would also be impacted by other construction activities extending below the slab, such as installation of new services or utilities.

5.4.6 In the light of the results of this trench evaluation, the depth and the extent of modern truncation (including the late Post-medieval features) appears to be substantial. It is considered unlikely that any earlier archaeological structures and deposits will survive within the footprint of Area E.

5.4.7 No further archaeological work therefore is deemed to be necessary to mitigate the impact of the approved development.

5.4.8 The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the further mitigation of the site rests with the Local Planning Authority.

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Skanska for commissioning the archaeological work and Adam Crouch, also of Skanska, for enabling the archaeological trenching during the fieldwork.

7 Bibliography

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MoLAS, 2009 Great Ormond Street Hospital Redevelopment, Phase 2A new Clinical Building, London WC1: Archaeological evaluation report, unpublished MOLA report

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-188005

Project details

Project name	Great Ormond Street Hospital Redevelopment, Phase B, New Cardiac Wing
Short description of the project	Two evaluation trenches were excavated within Area E. This was located to the south of the existing cardiac wing where the proposed Phase 2B development will take place. Natural gravel was recorded between 19.30m and 19.60m OD. This was truncated by three cut features: two most likely to be dated to the 19th-20th century and one, subsequently determined to be modern. No earlier archaeological deposits were present. Modern truncations were encountered throughout the trenches and were likely to have removed any deposit sequence down to the natural strata.
Project dates	Start: 04-08-2014 End: 05-08-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	molas1-155410 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	CUT FEATURE Post Medieval
Monument type	CUT FEATURE Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CAMDEN, Great Ormond Street Hospital Redevelopment, Phase 2B, New Cardiac Wing
Postcode	WC1

Study area	2.45 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 30481 82071 51.5219676425 -0.119053441799 51 31 19 N 000 07 08 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 19.30m Max: 19.60m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Simon Davis
Project supervisor	Serena Ranieri
Type of sponsor/funding body	Great Ormond Street Hospital

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	GOM 08
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	GOM 08
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Entered by	S. Ranieri (s.ranieri@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	21 August 2014

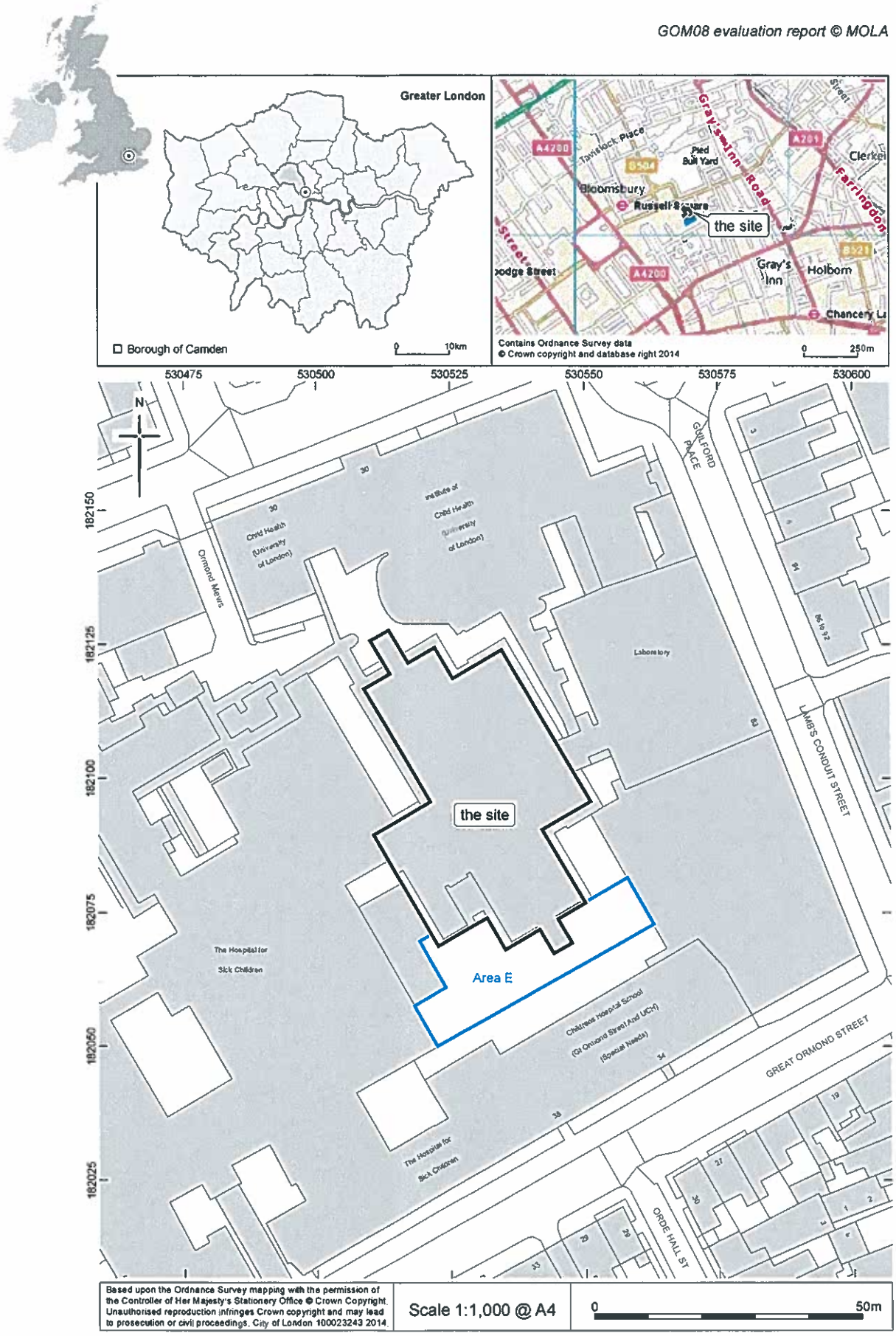

Fig 1 Site location

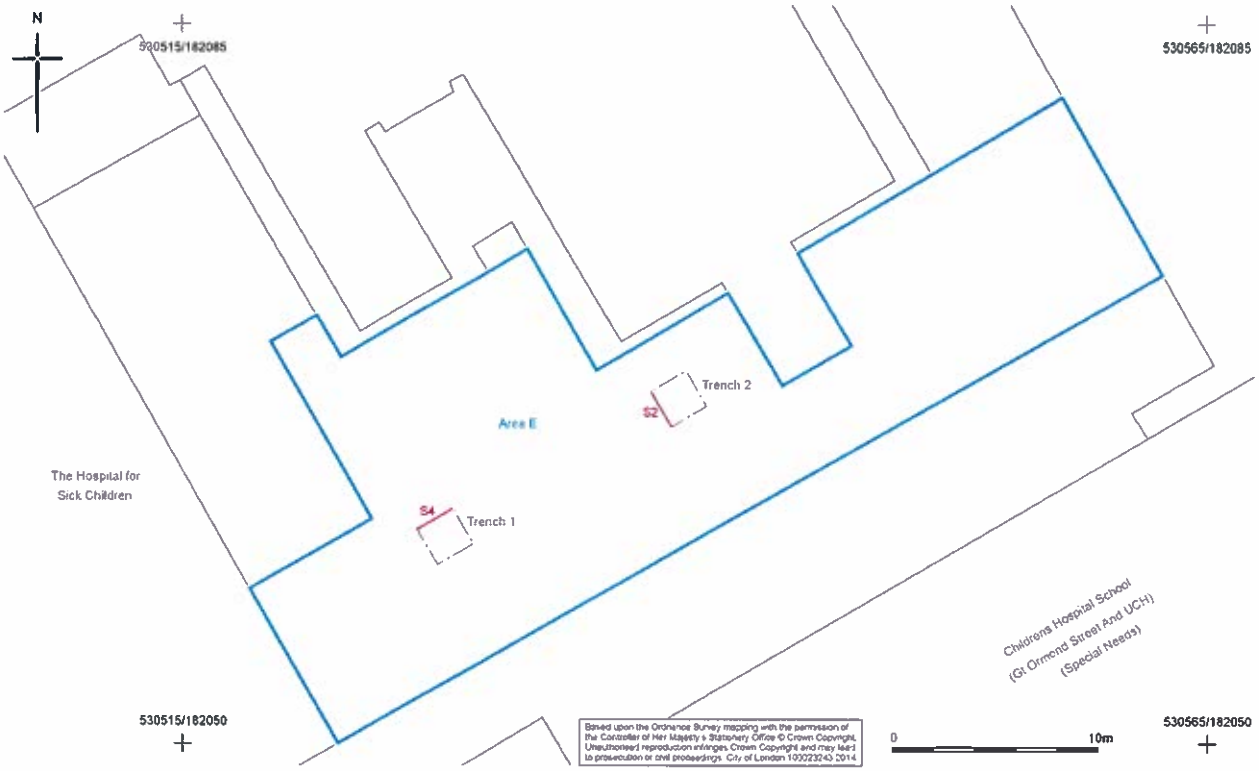

Fig 2 Trench and section location plan

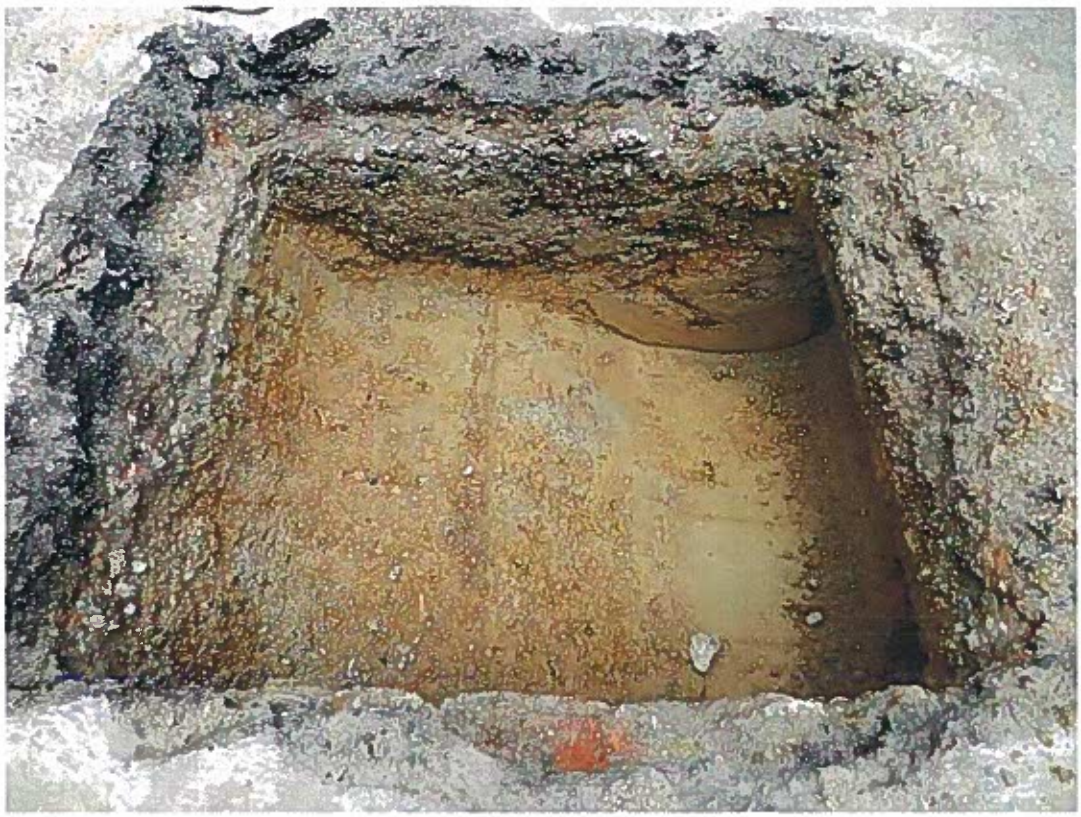

Fig 3 Trench 1 looking north, showing shallow pit [9] cut into natural gravel (section 4)

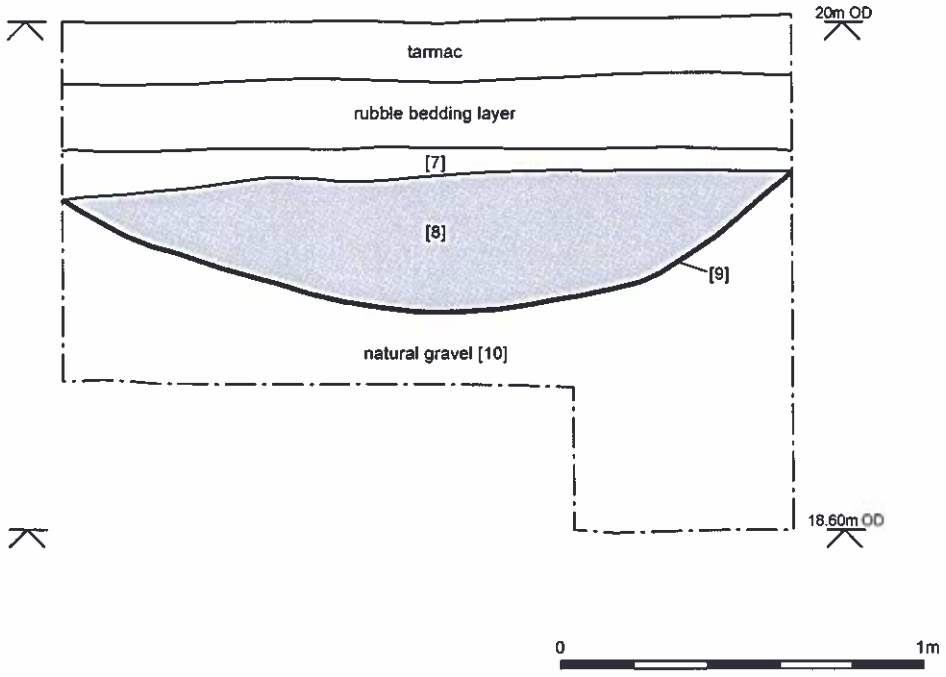

Fig 4 Trench 1 south facing section (4)

Fig 5 Trench 2 looking west, features [3] and [5] cut into natural gravel (section 2)

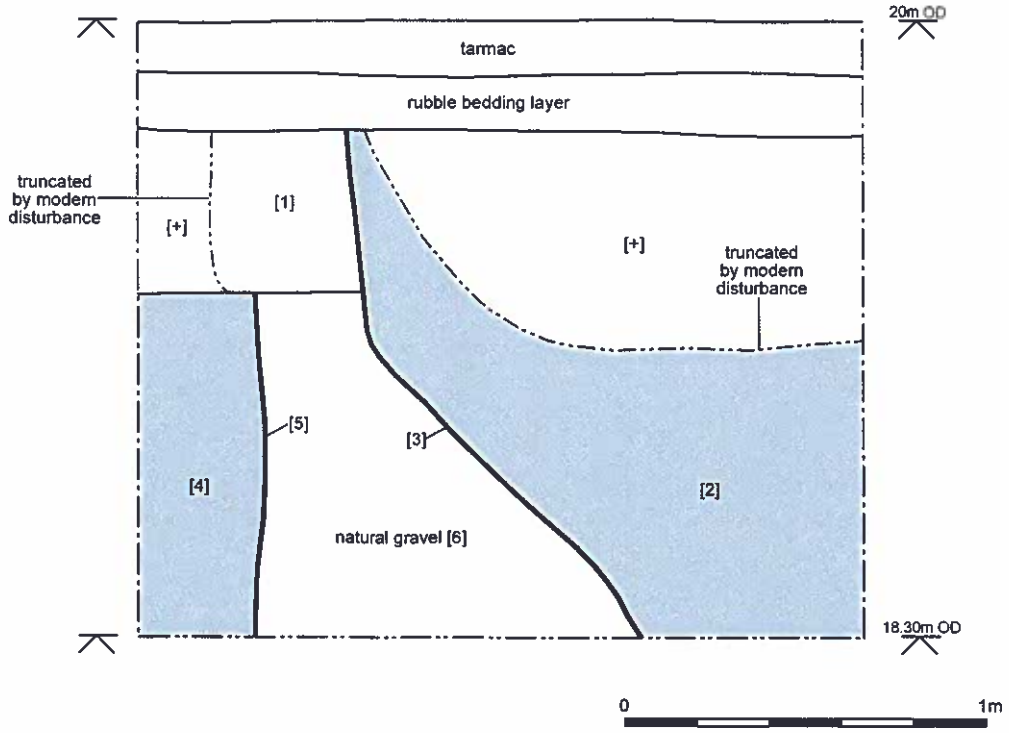

Fig 6 Trench 2 east facing section (2)

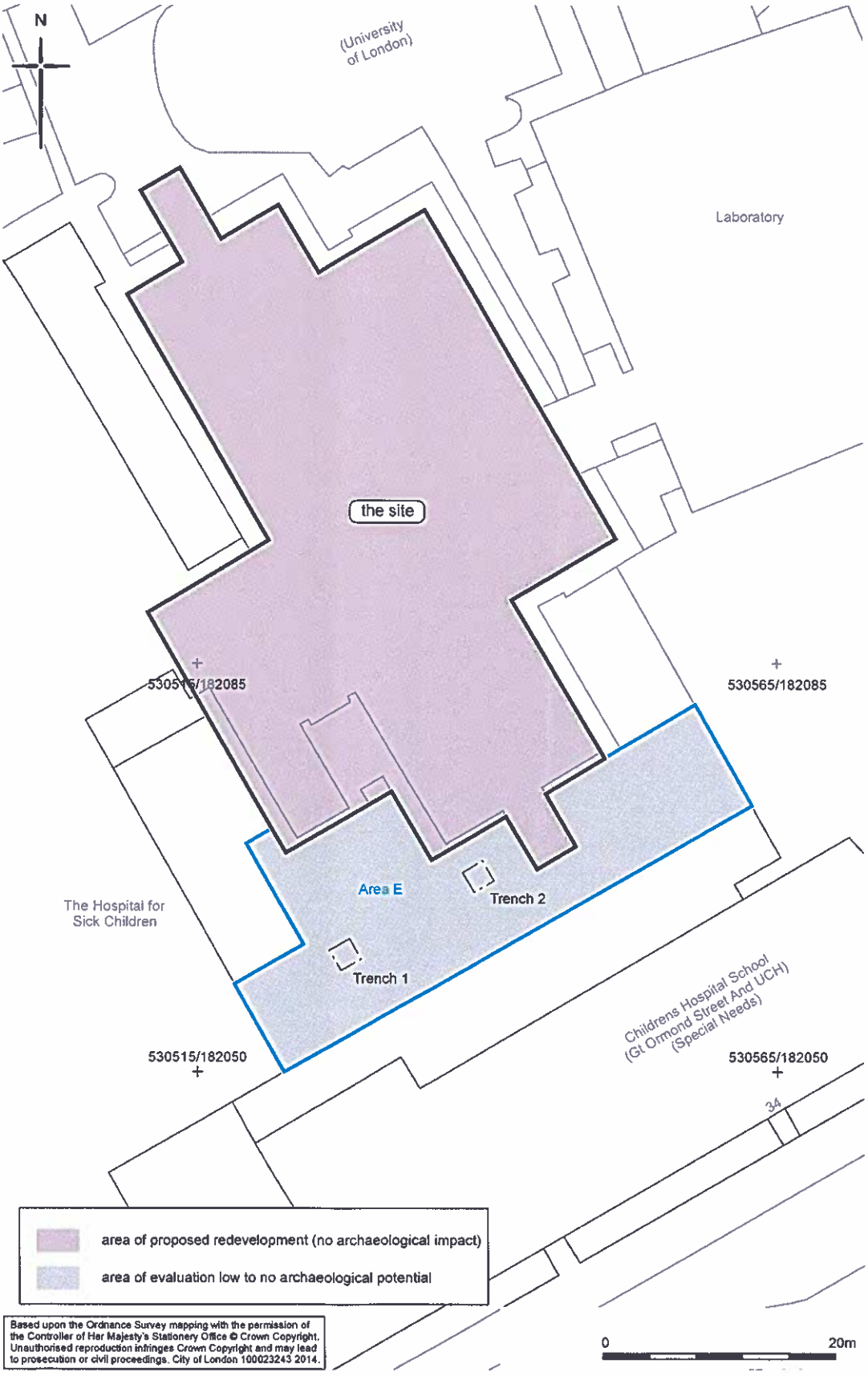

Fig 7 Archaeological survival plan