

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND AT 152-156 KENTISH TOWN ROAD, KENTISH TOWN, LONDON
BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**

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Museum of London Site Code: KTA 21
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Cover image: General shot of site, looking southeast

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by BWB Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at 152-156 Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London Borough of Camden, as a condition of planning consent for the construction of a new mixed use development.
- The proposed development area comprises a c.1200m² rectangular block of land on the east side of Kentish Town Road. A previous desk-based assessment demonstrated that the site was occupied by buildings, constructed between 1801 and 1849.
- The trenching strategy comprised the excavation of three trenches, each measuring 12m long by 5m wide.
- The trenching exposed structural remains of the former dwellings on the site, including walls surviving to a maximum height of 8 courses and part of a brick floor surface. Features not associated with the known structures comprises a small, undated pit and a large pit dated by finds to the 18th century.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by BWB Consulting to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at 152-156 Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London Borough of Camden, as a condition of planning consent for the construction of a new mixed use development.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (CIfA 2014), the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015), and a specification prepared by BWB (Astill 2020). All Historic England guidelines on archaeological best practice were also followed (www.historicengland.org.uk/advice).
- 1.3 The documentary and physical archive will be submitted to the Museum of London within six months of the completion of the report, where it will be stored under the museum site code KTA21.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development area comprises a square plot of land formerly occupied by a commercial building, located on the eastern side of Kentish Town Road, and centred on NGR TQ 289 847 (Figure 1). The proposed development area is bounded to the west by Kentish Town Road; to the north by commercial properties; to the east by commercial property boundaries and to the south by mixed use commercial and residential buildings.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation, formed approximately 48 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application for the re-development of the site at 152- 156 Kentish Town Road (2016/1372/P) was submitted on 24th March 2016 for '*the replacement of the former building within the site with a six storey mixed use building comprising retail (A1 Use Class) at ground and basement level and office space (B1 Use Class) and Dental Practice (D1 Use Class) at first floor level with nine residential units on the upper floors*'. Conditional consent was granted on 18th August 2016. The conditions included Condition 12 which states that:

'No demolition or development shall take place until a stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.'

- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being '*Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019), and with *Policy D2 Heritage* in the Camden Local Plan, and research agendas detailed in '*A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London*' (MoL 2015).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A detailed archaeological background was included in the preceding desk-based assessment of the site (ASE 2016), and the information presented below is a summary of this.
- 4.2 The desk-based assessment identified no known prehistoric sites or findspots within the study area. Romano-British activity was also absent, with the nearest known site a Roman pottery production site in Highgate Wood, c. 3km to the north. There was a similar lack of recorded evidence within the study area for the early medieval period.
- 4.3 The village of Kentish Town developed in the medieval period, and recorded medieval sites within 500m of the proposed development area include the village itself, the site of a medieval public house c.250m to the south and the suspected location of a manor house c.250m to the north. Development of Kentish Town continued in the post-medieval period, and cartographic evidence suggests that properties were constructed within the proposed development area in the first half of the 19th century, between 1801 and 1849. From this point on the site has been occupied by residential or commercial properties

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The trial trenching methodology entailed the excavation of three trenches measuring 12m long by 5m wide, located as shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). The fieldwork was undertaken by a team of experienced field archaeologists between the 12th and 14th of January 2021, supervised by the author.
- 5.2 The evaluation trenches were accurately located using a Leica GS08 RTK NetRover GPS. In each trench a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a smooth ditching bucket was used to remove made ground and non-archaeological deposits in spits no greater than 100mm in thickness. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. All further excavation was then by hand. Machine excavation was monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. All excavated sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow as appropriate.
- 5.4 Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique identifier (context number) and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 4. Numbers within square brackets denote cut features, e.g. pit [212].

6.0 Results (Figures 2 and 3)

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

- 6.1 Trench 1 was located in the southwestern part of the proposed development area. Natural gravel 104 was recorded at a level of 29.72mOD (**Error! Reference source not found.**). In some parts of the trench the gravel was overlain by a 0.10m thick deposit of firm light yellowish brown silty clay 103, which may also be part of the natural geology. Above this was a 0.40m thick spread of made ground, probably derived from previous demolition within the site. At the southern end of the trench a single course brick wall 106 on a concrete foundation 105 was recorded. The wall was 0.24m in width and bonded with hard light grey sandy mortar and was interpreted as being associated with 20th century structures on the site. The wall does not align with any demarcated property boundaries on OS mapping predating the 1950s and thus may be associated with major alterations comprising the conversion of the four properties on the site to a single building in the first half of the 20th century. The wall was abutted by a layer of concrete 100 and associated sub-base 101 that represent the current hard standing across the site. No archaeologically significant deposits or features were recorded in Trench 1.



Plate 1: General shot of Trench 1 looking south, 1m scales

- 6.2 A machine dug sondage was excavated into the gravel 104 to test the potential for Palaeolithic archaeological deposits within the development area. The gravel was over 1.40m thick, and no artefactual material was noted, although groundwater rapidly filled the excavated sondage.

Trench 2 (Figure 5)

- 6.3 Trench 2 was located to the north of Trench 1. The natural gravel 206 was cut by two pits. Toward the southwestern end of the trench a sub-rectangular pit [212] measuring 1.00m x 0.83m and with a depth of 0.30m was recorded in plan and section. The fill 213 of the pit comprised firm mid-grey silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions. No artefactual material was recovered from the single fill (**Error! Reference source not found.**).



Plate 2: Northeast-facing section of pit [212], 1m and 0.30m scales

- 6.4 At the northeastern end of the trench a large pit or ditch terminus [205], extending beyond the limits of the trench to the north was recorded in plan and section. The pit had a maximum depth of 1.02m and contained four fills. The basal fill 204 and that above it 203 both yielded artefactual material including ceramic, glass and metal objects. Both the ceramic assemblage and the clay pipes indicate that this is a mid to late-18th century refuse pit, predating the 19th century structures on the site.



Plate 3: Southwest-facing section showing fills of pit [205], 1m scale

- 6.5 Post-dating the large refuse pit, structural remains associated with the early 19th century properties on the site were recorded. The walls were generally built from hand pressed common red brick and bonded with moderately soft lime mortar. Where construction bonds could be determined, English bond predominated. At the southwestern end of the trench, wall 210, measuring 0.22m in width and surviving to a maximum height of 0.65m, was recorded in a position

that suggested it represents the southern dividing wall between the two northernmost properties within the proposed development area recorded on OS mapping (Figure 3). A partial wall 209, on the same alignment but surviving to only a single course in height is likely to represent an external wall between backyards to the east of the properties. A north-south aligned wall 211 bonded into wall 210 was likely to represent parts of the rear walls of the two middle properties of the four recorded within the proposed development area.



Plate 4: Wall 210, with wall 211 bonded into north face, 2m and 0.40m scales. Looking south

- 6.6 A brick-built inspection chamber and associated iron pipe probably represent a later 19th century alteration. A large poured concrete pier measuring 2.43m² was also recorded within Trench 2 and was interpreted as being associated with 20th century structures formerly on the site.

Trench 3 (Figure 6)

- 6.7 Trench 3 was located to the west of Trench 2. Further remains relating to the 19th century structures were recorded within the trench. At the southwestern end of the trench east-west aligned wall 306 represented a continuation of wall 210 recorded in Trench 2. The wall survived to a maximum height of 0.60m and comprised 8 courses of handmade red brick in English bond, bonded with moderately soft light whitish grey lime mortar. The wall is likely to represent the dividing wall between the two central properties built on the site in the early part of the 19th century.
- 6.8 Parallel to wall 306, c.5m to the north, was wall 303 which was very similar in materials and construction. The wall survived to a maximum height of 0.60m (8 courses) and was interpreted as representing the partition between the two northernmost early 19th century properties on the site. Thus wall 303 represents the northern wall and 306 the southern wall of one of the property divisions, giving a width of the building of c. 5m. A c. 0.35m² brick projection 304 was bonded into the southern face of wall 303, and the two uppermost courses of the surviving wall were rendered immediately to the west of this.



Plate 5: Detail of wall 306, 1m and 0.40m scales, looking north



Plate 6: Wall 303, with projection 304 bonded into south face, 1 m and 0.40m scales, looking north-northeast

- 6.9 At the northeastern end of Trench 3 a north-south aligned wall 308 was bonded into the north face of wall 303. The wall was built from handmade red common brick bonded with lime mortar, and is likely to represent the rear wall of the northernmost of the 19th century properties, although an irregular extension is shown on mapping to the east of the wall.
- 6.10 In the northern corner of the trench a partial floor surface 302 comprising bed-laid hand-pressed brick was recorded. The bricks were unbonded but laid on a thin skim of lime mortar. The surface was interpreted as part of an internal floor associated with the 19th century buildings on the site.



Plate 7: Remnant of brick floor surface 302, 1 m and 0.40m scales

- 6.11 Other structures recorded in Trench 3 include another inspection chamber on the same pipe run as that recorded in Trench 2, and a further concrete pier associated with 20th century structures, with a depth of over 1m.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The evaluation trenching exposed the remains of structures associated with the former occupation of the site, including a number of lime mortar bonded walls of hand-pressed brick associated with properties constructed on the site between 1801 and 1849. The study area has been continually developed from this point until the present, and structural remains relating to a series of extensions and alterations to the early 19th century buildings were also noted during the evaluation. The major alteration to the buildings on site noted from the cartographic evidence was the change from 4 distinct properties to a single property between the wars.
- 7.2 Two features were also recorded that are likely to predate the construction of the early 19th century properties. A sub-rectangular pit with no associated dating evidence was recorded in Trench 2, along with a substantial pit dated by pottery and other finds to the 18th century and likely to represent a backlot refuse pit, associated with earlier activity on the site. There were no associated buildings related to this phase of activity, it is probable that the 19th century housing along the road frontage, and later development has removed any trace of earlier development on the site.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The evaluation trenching methodology employed was suited to the scale and nature of the project and has identified the nature and extent of the archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank BWB Consulting for this commission.

10.0 References

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ASE, 2016, *152-156 Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London Borough of Camden Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Heritage Statement)*, Archaeology South-East

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CIfA, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Reading

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Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London: Department for Communities and Local Government

Appendix 1: Post-medieval pottery

By Alice Forward

Fifty-four sherds of pottery weighing 1533g in total were retrieved during excavations at Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London. The group dates to the 18th century.

Methodology

The sherds were identified by hand and as the group mostly consists of tin-glazed sherds the decorative motifs and shades of tin-glaze were used to guide this. The sherds were recorded using Excel, by context and by count and weight (g). Where rims were large enough rim diameter were recorded. The fabrics have been recorded against the MOLA post-medieval fabric codes (MOLA 2015), and reference made to Orton and Pearce's groupings for the tin-glazed sherds (Orton and Pearce 1984). The assemblage has been recorded in line with *The Pottery Standards* (Barclay et al 2016).

Results

The range of fabrics present across the assemblage is relatively few, with the vast majority being tin-glazed wares (TGW).

Row Labels	Sum of No. of sherds	Sum of Weight (g)
LONS	1	13
PEAR POLY	1	2
PMR	14	795
STSL	9	290
SWSG	2	82
TGW	14	205
TGW H	14	146
Grand Total	55	1533

Table 1 Showing the total count and weight of sherds by fabric

Pit [205]

There were two fills 204 and 203 within pit [205]. Both of these fills have produced a small but informative group of ceramics.

Fill 204 is the earliest fill and contains 28 sherds of pottery weighing 916g. There are two large post-medieval redware vessels which account for a large proportion of the total weight of the group.

The majority of the sherds from this context are tin-glazed wares and most likely London products. The overall glaze on all of the tin-glazed sherds is pale blue in colour and the decoration is painted in a dark blue. This is apart from a single rim sherd which has been painted a reddish brown on the very tip of the rim.

The forms represented within this group are mostly dishes, with painted internal surfaces as well as a single identified chamber pot rim. Overall it is considered that the decorative styles are mid to late 18th century in date.

Context no.	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	LARC Code	Form	Rim diameter	Date range
204	1	2	SWSG	Jar	10	1720 - 1780
204	1	34	TGW H	Dish	18	1680 - 1800
204	1	7	TGW H	Closed vessel	-	1680 - 1800
204	1	7	TGW	Dish	-	1680 - 1800
204	1	5	TGW H	Dish	20	1680 - 1800
204	4	14	TGW H	Unidentified	-	1680 - 1800
204	1	9	TGW H	Dish	28	1680 - 1800
204	1	22	TGW H	Dish	-	1680 - 1800
204	1	12	TGW H	Dish	-	1680 - 1800
204	1	2	TGW H	Unidentified	-	1680 - 1800
204	2	9	TGW	Unidentified	-	1680 - 1800
204	1	5	TGW	Chamber pot	18	1680 - 1800
204	1	5	TGW	Unidentified	-	1680 - 1800
204	1	44	STSL	Press-moulded dish	36	1660 - 1870
204	1	13	STSL	Press-moulded dish	36	1660 - 1870
204	1	3	STSL	Press-moulded dish	-	1660 - 1870
204	2	518	PMR	Dish (pancheon)	-	1580 - 1900
204	1	94	PMR	Jar	30	1580 - 1900
204	2	77	PMR	Jar	-	1580 - 1900
204	1	6	PMR	jug	10	1580 - 1900
204	1	13	PMR	Unidentified	-	1580 - 1900
204	1	11	PMR	Unidentified	-	1580 - 1900

Table 2 detailing the pottery from context 204

The earliest sherd within 204 is a stoneware salt-glaze rim, likely from a cup, the production of which is firmly in the 18th century. A group of three Staffordshire press-moulded dishes with feathered decoration are also typically dated to the 18th century.

There is a small group of redware, most likely all London types which includes the rim from a jug.

The vessels recovered from context 204 are mostly tablewares. The large deep dish (pancheon) and storage jar are also typical vessel forms for this date and type of assemblage.

Fill 203 contains 18 sherds, weighing 369g in total. The range of fabrics is very similar to that from the earlier fill 204. A group of three Staffordshire press-moulded, pie crusted, dishes with feathered decoration was present. Two are made in a pinky clay: the first is represented by three joining rim sherds with a rim diameter of 22cm; the second is larger, with two joining sherds, including part of the rim with a diameter of 38cm. The third dish appears slightly different; it is made in a creamy white clay which is likely to have affected the finish on the glaze which is brighter yellow in colour.

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	LARC Code	Form	Rim diameter	Date range
203	3	60	STSL	Press-moulded dish	22	1660 - 1870
203	2	144	STSL	Press-moulded dish	38	1660 - 1870
203	1	26	STSL	Press-moulded dish	-	1660 - 1870
203	1	23	TGW	Lid	4	1680 - 1800
203	1	19	TGW	Chamber pot	14	1680 - 1800
203	1	7	TGW	Chamber pot	18	1680 - 1800
203	1	28	TGW H	Dish	-	1680 - 1800
203	1	9	TGW H	Dish	-	1680 - 1800
203	2	17	TGW	Unid	-	1680 - 1800
203	1	4	TGW	Unid	-	1680 - 1800
203	1	2	PEAR POLY	Cup	6	1790 - 1820
203	1	16	PMR	Unid	-	1580 - 1900
203	1	1	PMR	Cup	-	1580 - 1900
203	1	13	LONS	Cup	8	1670 - 1926

Table 3 detailing the pottery from context 203

Tin-glazed sherds are the most common in number by fabric in this context as with 204. The group is consistent with regards to overall light blue glazes. There are only three sherds with painted decoration, two dishes and an unidentified form. The remaining sherds are plain and two of these are rims from chamber pots.

A rim sherd from a pearlware polychrome cup came from the fill. The decoration consists of blue painted flowers with red fine flourishes. These cups are late-18th to early 19th century in date. A stoneware cup with a brown band around the rim is likely to be similar in date.

As with context 204, there is very little redware within the assemblage and the two sherds from 203 are likely to be tablewares rather than larger utilitarian vessels.

208

The assemblage from fill 208 contains 8 sherds of pottery weighing 248g in total.

The range of fabrics is consistent with those found in the pit fills. The Tin glazed sherds represent a chamber pot and two sherds from unidentified forms one of which has the remnants of blue painted decoration.

Context no.	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	LARC Code	Form	Rim diameter	Date range
208	1	80	SWSG	Jug	-	1720 - 1780
208	1	22	PMR	Jug	-	1580 - 1900
208	3	37	PMR	Various	-	1580 - 1900
208	1	32	TGW	Chamber pot	-	1680 - 1800
208	1	71	TGW	Closed vessel	-	1680 - 1800
208	1	6	TGW H	Closed vessel	-	1680 - 1800

Table 4 detailing the pottery from context 208

There is a vessel within this group of particular note. It is a near-complete small stoneware salt-glazed jug with three small feet. It is press-moulded with scallop shell decoration on opposing sides

between the handle and spout. The handle is missing although the base of it remains. The rim has been chipped away but the pull of the spout is clear. Dating for this lies between 1720 - 1780.

The post medieval redwares are represented by four sherds, a handle from a jug and three body sherds from various vessels.

Conclusions

This is a well stratified small but informative group of pottery. The forms are mostly tablewares and the fabrics are consistent across all three contexts. They are likely to be contemporary groups dating to the mid to late 18th century.

The suite of vessels makes up an interesting household assemblage: the majority of the sherds are tin-glazed wares, and are all London products. The presence of the Staffordshire press-moulded dishes is consistent with regards to dating and the character of the assemblage. The stoneware salt glaze jug is again contemporary with the other tableware. The pearlware cup is likely to be the latest vessel within this group and indicates a date for deposition in the very late-18th century. It is representative of the ceramic developments and subsequent patterns of consumption that happened in the early-19th century, as tin-glazed wares were superseded by pearl and then whitewares. This further emphasises the slightly earlier date for the majority of this assemblage.

It is recommended that the assemblage be retained and in particular the near-complete stoneware salt glazed jug be brought to the attention of the LARC.

References

Barclay et al 2016 *A standard For Pottery Studies in Archaeology*

MOLA, 2015, *Medieval and post medieval pottery codes* (accessed 25/02/2021 <https://www.mola.org.uk/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes>)

Orton C. R. and J. Pearce, 1984, 'The Pottery' in A. Thompson et al, 'Excavations at Aldgate 1974', *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 18.1. 34-68.

Appendix 2: Ceramic Building Material

By Alice Forward

A small group of ceramic building material was recovered during excavations at Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London. Seven fragments of ceramic roof tile and two brick fragments weighing 1047g in total.

Methodology

The ceramic building material has been hand identified and each fragment recorded by weight. The fabrics for both the brick and the roof tile are described below.

Results

Brick

Part of a handmade brick was retrieved from pit fill 204. The brick is a hard fabric, and in places appears to be over-fired. It is a reddy purple in colour for the most part although some of the surfaces are patchy yellow. The fabric contains occasional large fragments and frequent smaller flecks of limestone. There are also voids within the fabric where the limestone has burnt out during the firing. The brick no longer has a complete length: the longest side remaining is 93mm. The bricks width is 63mm and the remaining weight 460g.

A small fragment of brick weighing 8g was also retrieved from fill 204. The fabric is orange in colour with frequent medium ironstone inclusions, large quartz grains and rare limestone.

Roof tile

Context 204 contained a small group of roof tile none were complete. The group is represented by two different fabrics both of which are moulded.

The first is a hard orange fabric with occasional mica, ironstone and quartz. Three fragments were present in this group, one of which has the remains of a peg hole. Together they weigh in total 327g.

The second fabric is darker in colour, a hard brownly orange. The inclusions are rare angular quartz and ironstone and occasional small rounded limestone. Two fragments have been grouped under this fabric and weigh 93g in total.

Context 203 contained one roof tile fragment. This has been identified as the same as fabric 1 (as described above). The fragment weighs 167g.

Context	Fabric	Total no. of fragments	Total weight (g)
204	1	3	327
204	2	2	93
203	1	1	167

Table 5 detailing the number of roof tiles found by context and fabric

Conclusions

The ceramic building material from site is only a small group. The brick fragment is very similar in description to that identified at Aldgate (Betts 1984, 69). The material all comes from pit [205] which has been dated to the mid to late 18th century and therefore it is likely that this material is of the same date.

References

Betts, I. and A. Vince, 1984, 'The Ceramic Building Material' in A. Thompson et al, 'Excavations at Aldgate 1974', *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 18.1. 69-77.

Appendix 3: Clay Pipe

By Alice Forward

A small group of clay pipes from stratified deposits was retrieved from excavations at Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London. The clay pipes date between 1740 and 1780.

Methodology

The clay pipes have been recorded in line with the conventions set out by the Clay Pipe Society (White 2004), and fully detailed below. The London Bowl Form typology has been used to identify the bowls within the assemblage (Atkinson and Oswald 1969).

Results

208

One bowl, seven stems and three mouthpieces were retrieved from this context.

The bowl is complete, including the heel and a small section of the stem. The bowl form has been identified as type 26 which is dated to 1740 – 1800. There are no markings or decoration present.

There are three mouthpieces, each has been cut finished.

204

The group of clay pipe fragments from pit fill 204 consist of one bowl, seven stems and one mouthpiece.

The bowl is incomplete and has broken along the line of the heel, leaving the heel complete but losing much of the bowl. Despite this the beginning of the stem is also present. It is very likely that this bowl is a type 27 which is closely datable to 1780-1781. There are no markings or decoration present.

There is one mouthpiece within this group and it is cut finished.

Conclusion

Despite the group being relatively small it is useful with regards to supporting the dating from the ceramics. The bowl from pit fill 204 has a very tight date range which does provide a good indication for deposition within the pit. It is however fragmentary and therefore does not mean that this date is an exact depositional indicator.

The bowl from fill 208 is similar in date, but slightly broader in range. This still fits within the suggested date range for the ceramics.

References

Atkinson, D. and A. Oswald, 1969, 'London Clay Tobacco Pipes' *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 32. 171-227

White, S. 2004, *The Dynamics of Regionalisation and Trade: Yorkshire Clay Tobacco Pipes c1600-1800*. British Archaeological Report Series, 374.

Appendix 4: Metal objects

By Alice Forward

A small group of four metal objects were retrieved during excavations at Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London.

Methodology

The objects have been identified and recorded by material and weight (g). A short description has also been provided for each object. This information has been recorded in an excel spreadsheet.

Results

Context no.	Object name	Material	No. of fragments	Weight (g)	Description
208	Nail	Iron	1	17	Probable nail. The head is rounded and not dissimilar in width to the shank width.
204	Catch	Iron	1	59	Catch for a gate
204	Mount	Lead alloy	1	2	Possible furniture or box fitting. Incomplete.
204	Nail	Iron	1	>1	Shank from a small nail.

Table 6 detailing the metal finds from excavation

Pit 205

The group of objects from pit fill 204 are varied in terms of function. The group does not fit within a particular theme, with the gate catch associated with outdoor fixtures and fittings, and the furniture or box fitting more likely associated with household objects. The gate fitting is not typologically datable.

The group is from an 18th century pit and is likely that the three objects from this fill are contemporary with the ceramics.

208

Fill 208 had one nail retrieved from the fill. It is incomplete and the head a similar width to the shank.

Conclusions

This is a very small group of metalwork. The furniture/box fitting is of some interest and it is likely this could be more accurately identified.

Appendix 5: Glass objects

By Alice Forward

A small group of eight shards of glass weighing 500g in total was retrieved from excavations at Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London. The shards all come from stratified contexts that have been dated to the 18th century.

Methodology

The glass has been identified by type, including the object it is likely to have been a part of, its colour, weight (g) and any other specific feature (such as base diameter), depending on each shard. The material has been recorded in excel.

Results

Context no.	Object type	Glass colour	Weight (g)	No. shards	Other info.
208	Bottle	Dark green	445	1	Base of large green bottle. The bottle base is 10cm in diameter. The sides of the bottle have been broken but it is clear that the vessel was straight sided.
208	Bottle	Dark green	28	1	Thick body shard from a glass vessel.
203	Unidentified	Green	4	1	Fine body shard from a glass vessel.
204	Window glass	Opaque greeny-white	1	2	Two fragments of window glass.
204	Wine glass	Clear	6	1	Foot of a stemmed vessel. There is a white inlay within the glass within the circumference of the foot. 6.5cm diameter
204	Unidentified	Green	1	1	Very fine shard of glass - vessel unidentifiable
204	Bottle	Dark green	15	1	Shard from dark green vessel, mostly likely due to thickness it is bottle glass.

Table 7 glass objects retrieved from excavation

Pit [205]

Five shards of glass were retrieved from pit fill 204. This included two which can only be generally identified as a dark green bottle and a green vessel.

Two shards of opaque window glass were found within this context.

A notable shard is from the foot of a stemmed vessel. It is made in a clear glass and within the border and circumference of the foot is a white circle whose material is unclear. The point at which the glass has fragmented, the white has dulled to a dark grey suggesting that this white could be a leaded alloy decorative element to the foot ring of the vessel.

A single shard of fine green glass was retrieved from fill 203. It is not clear what sort of vessel this would have been a part of.

208

A complete base from a straight sided 'tall' bottle, of which the diameter is 10cm, was retrieved from fill 208. Tall sided bottles began to be produced in 1760 (Vince 1984). This would fit with the dating of the ceramics also from this context.

Conclusions

The glass assemblage is small however it contains a variety of vessel types, including large bottles as well as fine tableware. No further work is required or recommended on this assemblage.

References

Vince, A. 1984, 'The glass' in A. Thompson et al, 'Excavations at Aldgate 1974', *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 18.1. 69-77.

Appendix 6: Animal bone and shell

By Bryn Leadbetter

Introduction

A total of nine fragments of animal bone weighing in total 167 grams, and eight oyster valves with a combined weight of 435 grams were recovered from two 18th century pits during archaeological works undertaken on land at 152-156 Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London Borough of Camden. Presented here is an assessment of the specimens found along with proposals for any further analysis required.

Methodology

Animal Bones

Identification of the animal bone assemblage was carried out using published and online guides (Hillson 1996, Schmid 1972) and recorded in accordance with guidelines set out by Baker and Worley for Historic England (2019). Specimens were counted, the bone individually weighed and where possible and applicable all specimens identified to element, species and body side. Any butchery and cut marks (Binford 1981), along with evidence of gnawing, burning and pathological changes were also recorded. Undiagnostic bone fragments were recorded as either micro (rodent size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size). The measurement and sexing of bones was not undertaken at this stage. The condition of the bone was considered using the criteria established by Lyman (1996), where grade 0 is the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating the bone has suffered such structural or attrition damage as to make it unrecognisable.

Oyster Valves

The oyster valves were recorded in accordance with criteria set down by Winder (2011), taking note of side, infestations and modifications along with weights and measurements. Any ageing and seasonality information that might be obtained from the shells was not attempted at this stage.

Results

Quantification of the animal bones and oyster valves is given in tables 1 and 2. With the exception of an intact cow phalanx the bone assemblage was represented only by fragments, and most of these small in size.

Animal bones

Although fragmented, the integrity of the specimens was good in terms of weathering, measuring no more than 2 on the Lyman scale. The only certain identified specimens were a cow (*Bos taurus*) phalanx and vertebrae, although fragments of a large mammal rib and long-bone likely belong to cattle also. The medium mammal sized rib and metapodal fragments are possibly those of a sheep. None of the specimens showed signs of gnawing, butchery, burning or other modifications.

Context	Feature	Feature Context	Species	NISP	Element	Weight (grams)	Notes
203	Pit	205	Bos	1	vertebrae	52	Fragment
204	Pit	205	Bos	1	phalanx	19	Intact
204	Pit	205	med' mammal	1	rib	3	mid-section fragment
204	Pit	205	med' mammal	1	metapodal	2	distal fragment

204	Pit	205	indet'	1	-	5	fragment
204	Pit	205	indet'	1	-	3	fragment
208	Pit	207	large mammal	1	long bone	56	fragment
208	Pit	207	Large mammal	1	rib	24	mid-section fragment
208	Pit	207	indet'	1	-	3	fragment
Total	-	-	-	9	-	167	-

Table 8 Quantification of animal bone from KTKT20 (NISP: number of identified specimens, indet': indeterminate)

Oyster shell

The oyster valves were identified as the common European Flat Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), a species also referred to as the Native British Oyster (e.g. Winder 2011), which are commonly found on archaeological sites. Most specimens were (less commonly) intact and equally represented by left and right sided examples. Generally speaking, the valves were notably thick, heavy and often flakey, suggesting older-aged specimens, particularly that recovered from context 203 which weighed 162 grams, well above any other single specimen, and which also exhibited worm and sponge infestation. Damage to the margins of all the valves was minimal, although such damage to one from context 204 prevented maximum length measurement (estimated at 50mm), and a v-notch, damage usually ascribed to the prizing open of the oyster by humans, was present on one valve only.

Context	Feature	Feature Context	Species	NIS P	Valve side (L/R)	Weight (grams)	Max' width (mm)	Max' length (mm)	Infes'	General condition
203	Pit	205	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	1	L	162	105	94	Pc/Cc	intact/old
204	Pit	205	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	1	L	61	75	76	-	Intact/old
204	Pit	205	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	1	L	48	77	79	-	Intact/old
204	Pit	205	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	1	R	38	-	-	-	Large /old -fragment with umbro
204	Pit	205	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	1	R	37	85	73	-	Intact
204	Pit	205	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	1	R	27	69	73	-	Intact/ v-notch
204	Pit	205	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	1	R	12	60	50(?)	-	loss to pm
208	Pit	207	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	1	L	50	82	71	-	wear to vm
Total	-	-	-	8	-	435	-	-	-	-

Table 9 Quantification of oyster valves from KTKT20 (Pc: *Polydora ciliate* (worm), Cc: *Cliona celata* (sponge), pm: posterior margin, vm: ventral margin)

Discussion

In the case of both the animal bones and the oyster valves the assemblages are far too small to consider any sensible interpretation other than to say they are likely the remains of a food source consumed by people of the time represented by the features in which they were found. As such, no further analysis need take place.

References

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Lyman, R. L., 1996, *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Schmid, E., 1972, *Atlas of Animal Bones: For Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists*. London: Elsevier.

Winder, J.M., 2011. 'Oyster Shells from Archaeological Sites: A brief illustrated guide to basic processing' [on-line] Available at:

<https://oystersetcetera.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/oystershellmethodsmanualversion11.pdf>

Appendix 7: Archaeobotany

By Bryn Leadbetter

Introduction

Two whole-earth environmental samples of 54 litres in total were collected from two 18th century pits during archaeological work undertaken on land at 152-156 Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London Borough of Camden. The samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains, wood charcoal and any additional ecofacts and artefacts in order to aid interpretation of the contexts sampled and help provide an understanding of the arable economy and local environmental conditions at the time the site was active. Presented here is an assessment of the results derived from the processing of the samples and proposals for any further work advised.

Methodology

The samples were processed by flotation with the lighter, floating, material (flot) retained in a 300 micron mesh and the heavier fraction (residue) captured in a 1000 micron mesh. The flots were then air dried before being scanned under a microscope. The residue was air dried and sieved at 5mm and 2mm, with any additional plant material removed and added to the flot. Any artefacts were also removed. Identification of any plant material was aided by Jacomet (2006).

Results

The flot from sample 1, context 204, was found to contain only a small amount of modern wood fragments and modern seeds, and an occasional land mollusc. Similarly, the flot from sample 2, context 213, contained only a small amount of modern and charred seeds, and the occasional speck (<2mm) of charcoal. Neither of the flots produced material of any archaeological note. The residues consisted mainly of a flint gravel material and produced no artifacts or ecofacts, the latter that may have escaped floating (Table 1).

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature type	Feature Context No.	Volume (Ltrs)
1	204	pit	205	26
2	213	pit	212	28
Total:	-	-	-	54

Table 10 Samples taken with sample numbers and volumes, deposit context, feature type and feature context

Discussion

Due to the absence of any archaeobotanical material that would aid interpretation of the features sampled, or the economy and local environment of the time the site was active, it is suggested here that no further analysis need take place on the samples.

Reference

Jacomet, S., 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2nd edition). Basal: IPAS Basal University

Appendix 8: Context Summary List

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Indurated light whitish grey concrete			0.16	Concrete hard standing
101	Layer	Loose angular brick fragments and gravel in a coarse sand matrix			0.14	Make-up layer for concrete 100
102	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent angular brick and stone inclusions			0.4	Made ground
103	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown silty clay			0.1	
104	Layer	Compact light brownish yellow medium to coarse gravel				Natural substrate
105	Structure	Indurated light whitish grey concrete			>0.21	Concrete foundation for wall 106
106	Structure	East-west aligned wall built from common red bricks measuring c240mm x 120mm x 80mm bonded with hard light grey sandy mortar	>4.92	0.24	0.08	20th century brick wall

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
200	Layer	Indurated light whitish grey concrete			0.19	Concrete hard standing
201	Layer	Firm mid grey silty clay with frequent angular brick and stone inclusions			0.18	Made ground
202	Fill	Firm light brownish yellow silty clay		>1.36	0.38	Dumped fill of pit [205] possibly used as capping
203	Fill	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay		>1.85	0.43	Dumped fill of pit [205]
204	Fill	Soft very dark grey clayey silt		>1.85	0.47	Dumped fill of pit [205]
205	Cut	Cut of pit with sharp break of slope from top, moderately steep sides breaking gradually to a slightly concave base	>5.62	2.95	1.02	Cut of refuse pit
206	Layer	Compact light brownish yellow medium to coarse gravel				Natural substrate
207	Cut	Cut of pit with sharp break of slope from top, moderately steep sides breaking gradually to a slightly concave base				Equivalent to [205]
208	Fill	Loose dark grey clayey silt with			0.3	Dumped fill of

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
		light whitish grey lenses				[207]. Equivalent to 204
209	Structure	East-west aligned wall comprising a single course of hand pressed brick measuring 220mm x 100mm x 60mm bonded with moderately soft light whitish grey lime mortar	>0.92	0.22	0.06	Wall associated with early 19th century properties
210	Structure	East-west aligned wall comprising up to 9 courses of hand pressed brick measuring 240mm x 100mm x 60mm bonded with moderately soft light whitish grey lime mortar. Laid in English Bond	2.34	0.22	0.65	Wall associated with early 19th century properties
211	Structure	North-south aligned wall comprising >6 courses of hand pressed brick measuring 220mm x 100mm x 60mm bonded with moderately soft light whitish grey lime mortar. Laid in English Bond	3.72	0.22	0.48	Wall associated with early 19th century properties
212	Cut	sub-rectangular pit with a sharp break of slope from top and near vertical sides breaking sharply to a flat base	1	0.83	0.3	Cut of pit
213	Fill	Firm mid grey silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions	1	0.83	0.3	Accumulated fill of [212]
214	Fill	Firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with moderately frequent sub-angular stone inclusions		>1.02	0.57	Dumped fill of [205]
215	Structure	Brick built inspection chamber and associated iron pipe	1.09	0.95	>1	Brick built inspection chamber
216	Structure	Indurated light whitish grey concrete	2.51	2.41		Concrete pier associated with 20th century structures

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
300	Layer	Indurated light whitish grey concrete			0.16	Concrete hard standing
301	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent angular brick and stone inclusions			0.7	Made ground
302	Structure	Floor surface comprising bed-laid, unbonded hand pressed bricks measuring 220mm x	1.29	1.26	0.06	Brick floor surface associated

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
		100mm x 60mm				with early 19th century properties
303	Structure	East-west aligned wall comprising up to 8 courses of hand pressed brick measuring 220mm x 100mm x 60mm bonded with moderately soft light whitish grey lime mortar. Laid in English Bond	5.93	0.49	0.6	Wall associated with early 19th century properties
304	Structure	Buttress bonded into to south face of wall 303, comprising similar brickwork	0.36	0.35	0.6	Part of wall associated with early 19th century properties
305	Structure	Indurated light whitish grey concrete	2.91	2.71	>1	Concrete pier associated with 20th century structures
306	Structure	East-west aligned wall comprising up to 8 courses of hand pressed brick measuring 220mm x 100mm x 60mm bonded with moderately soft light whitish grey lime mortar. Laid in English Bond	4.86	0.36	0.6	Wall associated with early 19th century properties
307	Structure	Brick built inspection chamber and associated iron pipe	1.13	1	>1	Brick built inspection chamber
308	Structure	North-south aligned wall comprising up to 8 courses of hand pressed brick measuring 220mm x 100mm x 60mm bonded with moderately soft light whitish grey lime mortar. Laid in English Bond	3.82	0.72	0.6	Wall associated with early 19th century properties

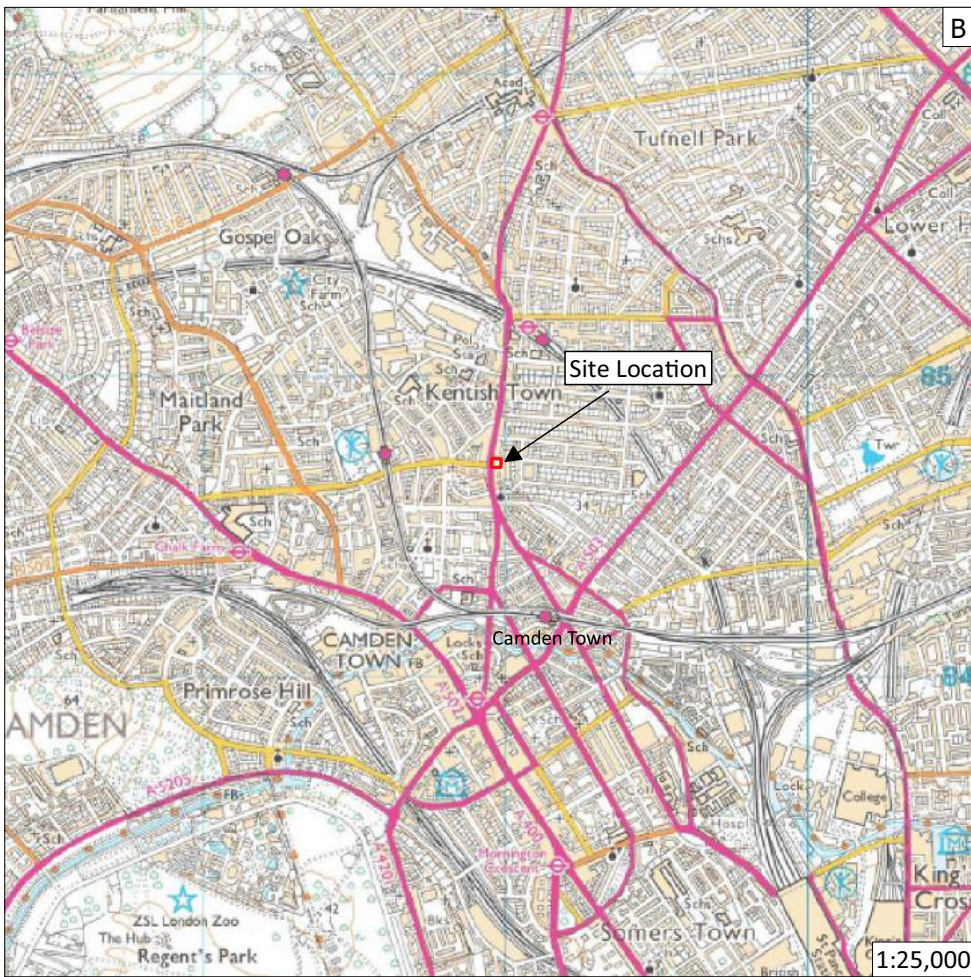
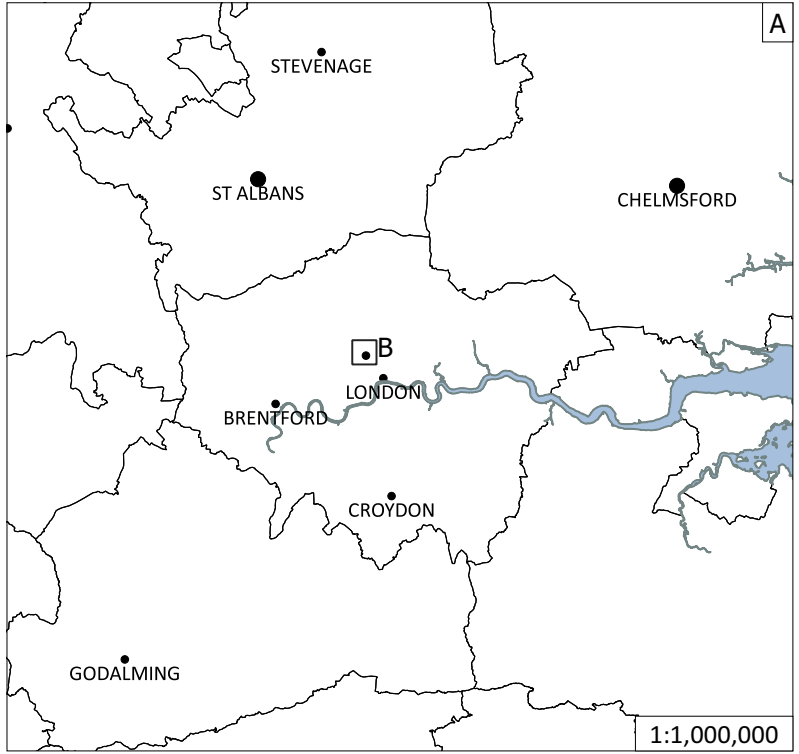


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	KTA 21
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Drawn by	A Telford
Date	08/02/2021

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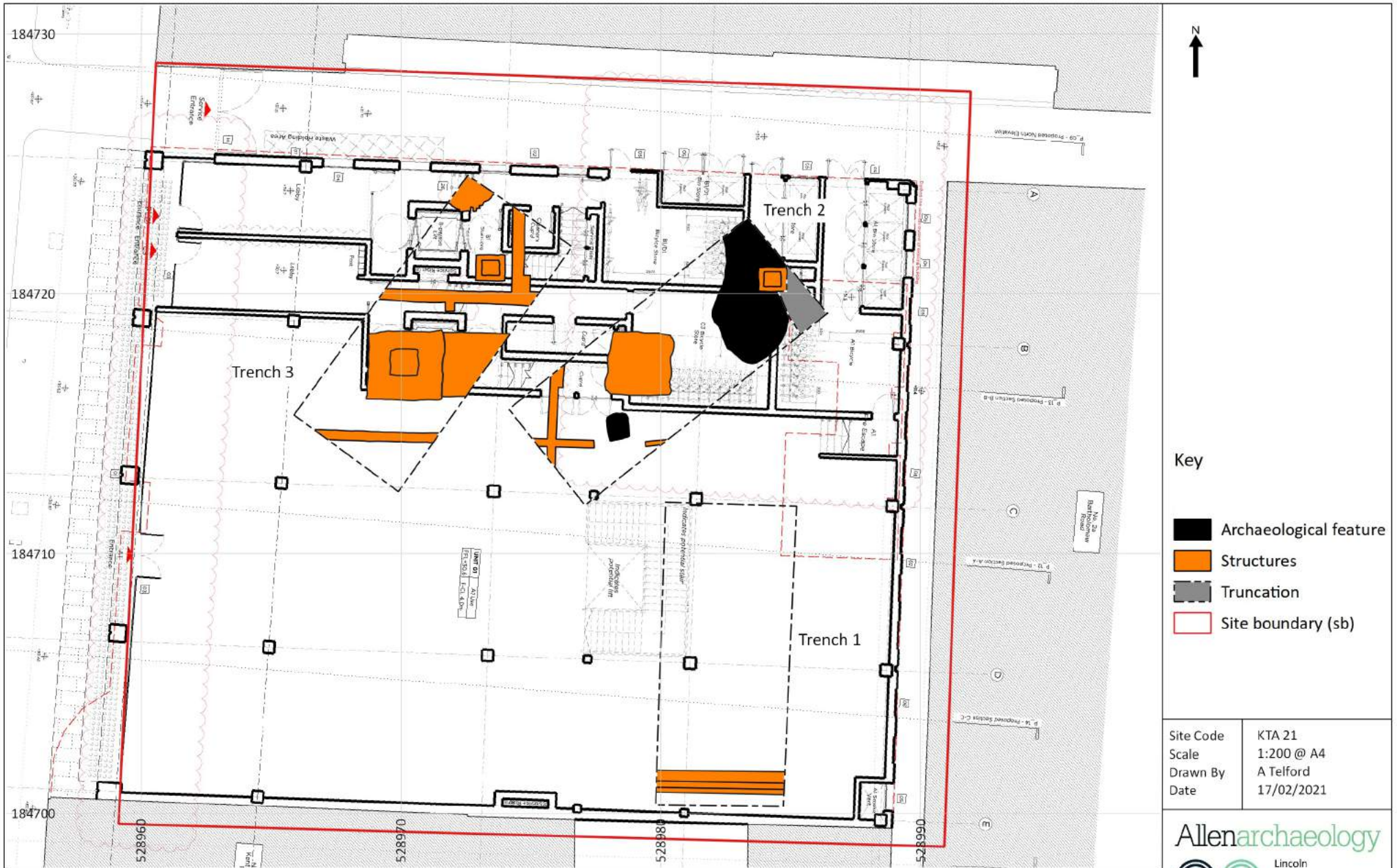


Figure 2: Site plan overlapping plan provided by client

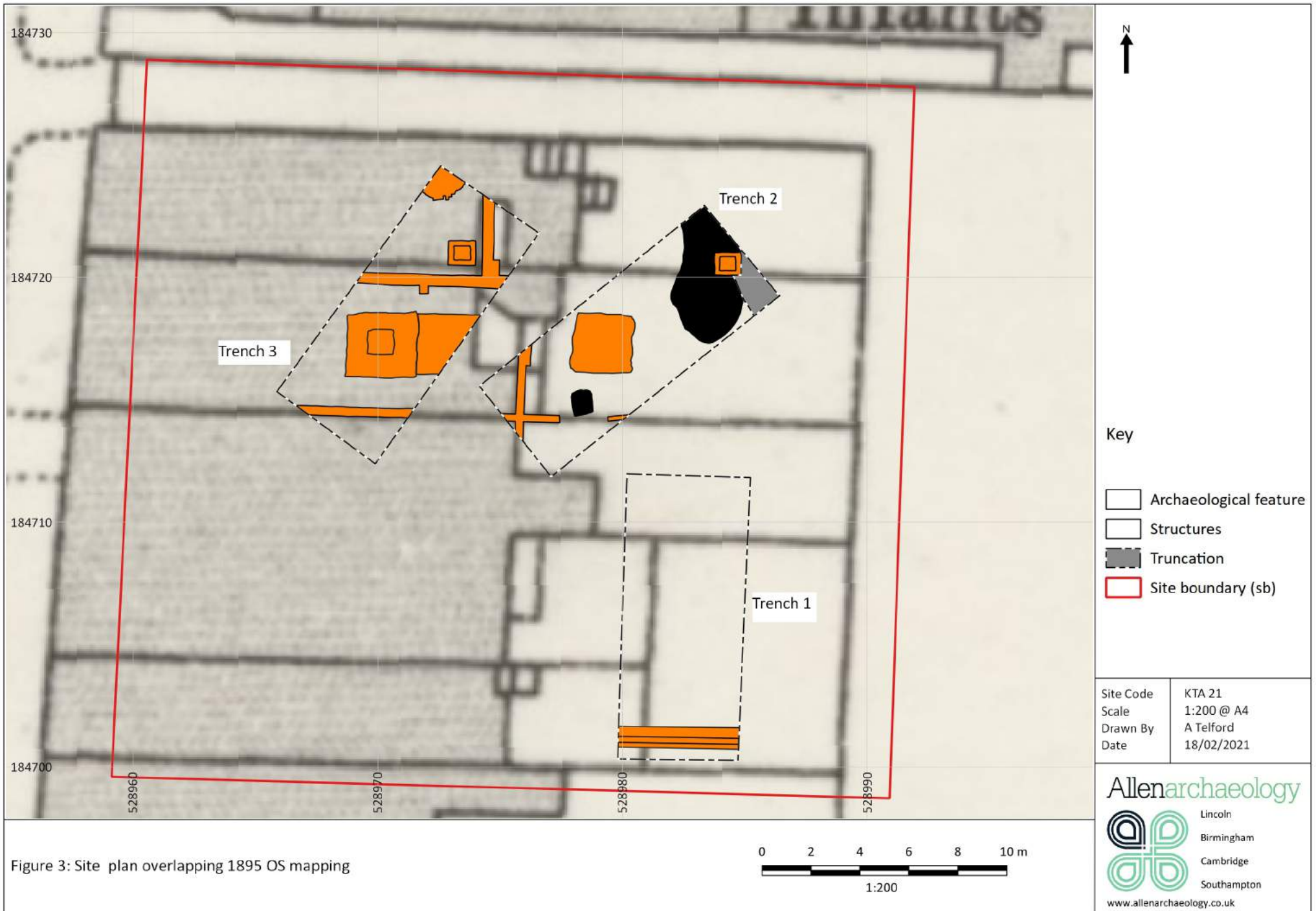
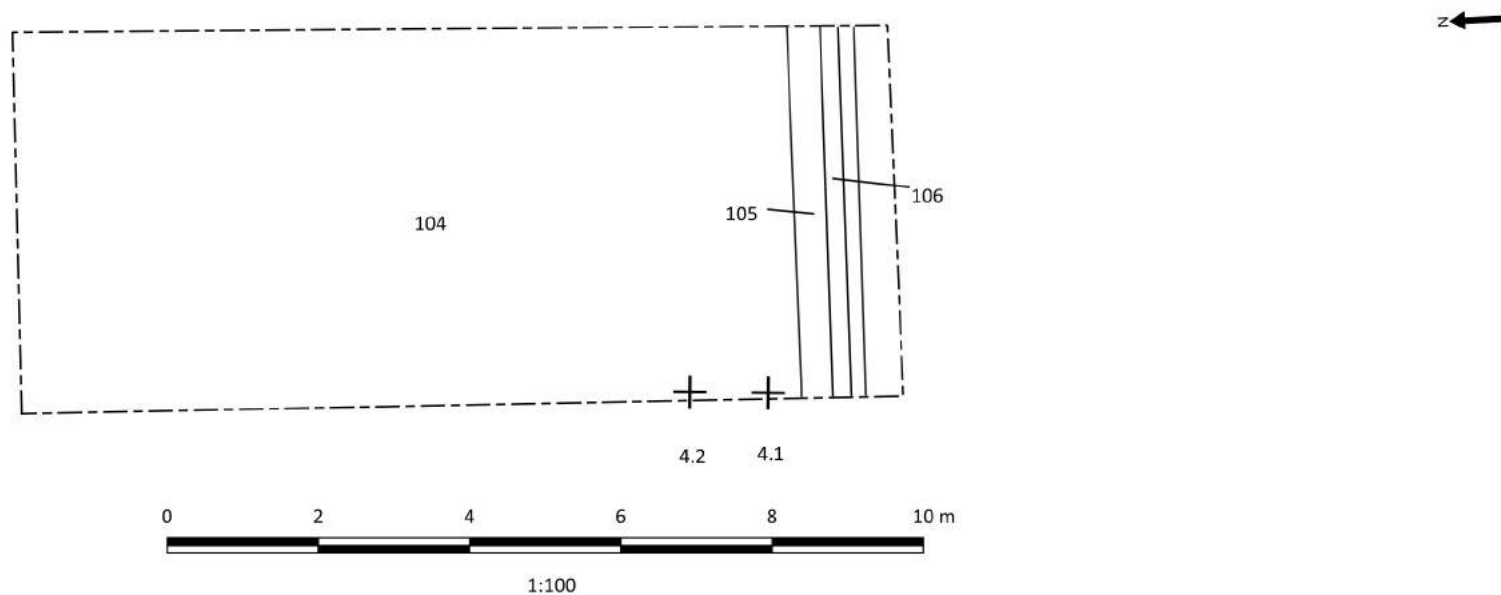
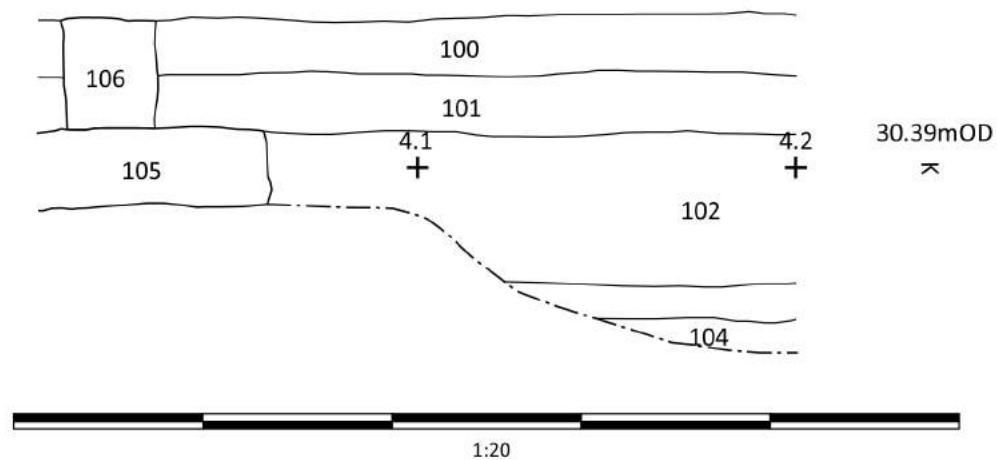


Figure 3: Site plan overlapping 1895 OS mapping



East-facing representative section of TR 1



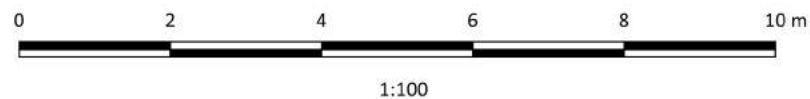
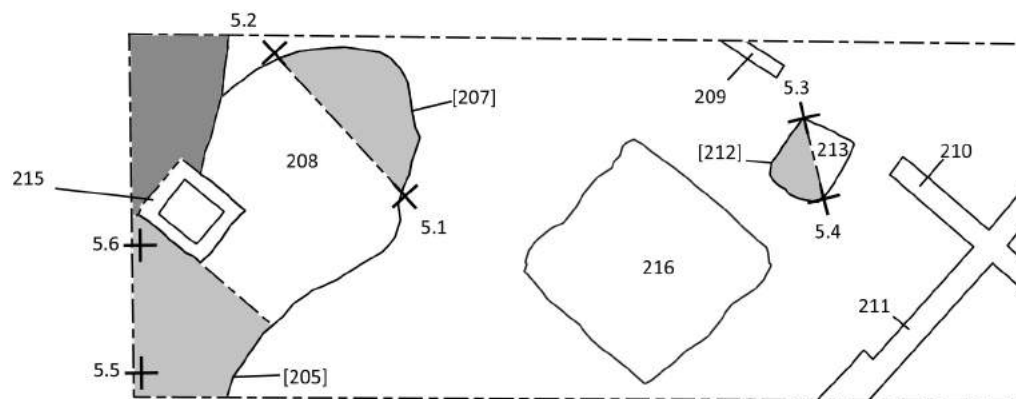
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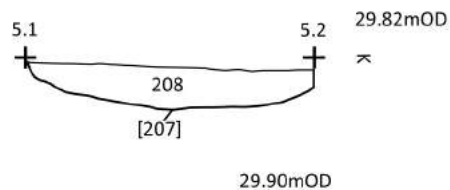


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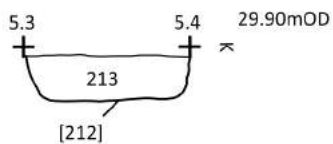
Figure 4: Plan and section of Trench 1



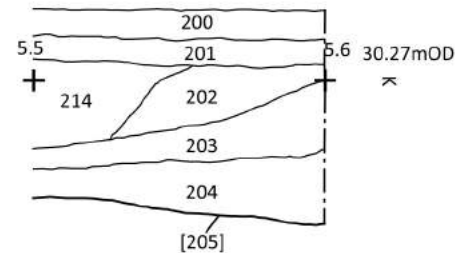
South-facing section



Northeast-facing section



Southwest-facing section



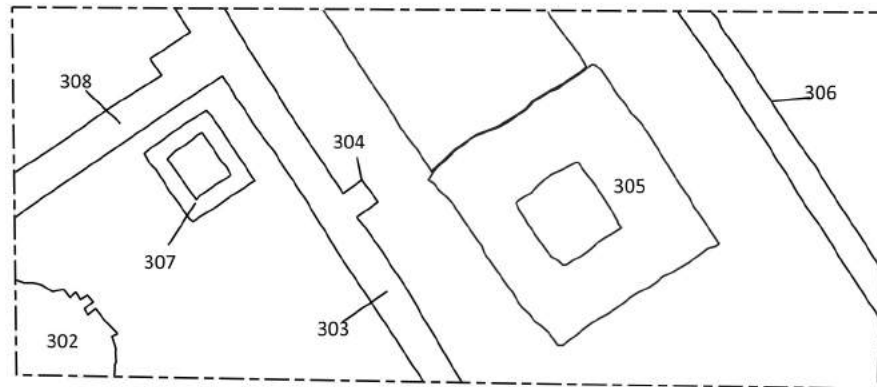
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Figure 5: Plan and sections of Trench 2



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Figure 6: Plan of Trench 3



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