

**The Green Man Public House, 196 High Street,
Stratford, London Borough of Newham**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for London Inn Hotels Limited**

by Helen Moore

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HTD01

October 2001

Summary

Site name: The Green Man Public House, 196 High Street, Stratford, London Borough of Newham

Grid reference: TQ 3848 8382

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 26th–27th September, 2001

Project manager: Helen Moore

Site Supervisor: Helen Moore

Site code: HTD01

Area of site: c. 1225 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological remains were recorded from either of the two trenches, and no deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential were observed.

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The site archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR. The archive will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 23.10.01
	Steve Preston ✓ 26.10.01

The Green Man Public House, 196 High Street, Stratford, London Borough of Newham An Archaeological Evaluation

by Helen Moore

Report 01/90

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the former Green Man Public House, 196 High Street, Stratford, London (TQ 3848 8382) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ben leRoy of John Cobb and Partners, Lincoln House, 83 Manor Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 0DE, on behalf of London Inn Hotels Limited.

The London Borough of Newham has granted planning permission for the demolition of the existing building and the construction of an hotel. The permission contains a condition (4) relating to archaeology. A field evaluation of the archaeological potential of the site was requested, in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough policies on archaeology, in order to provide information to allow the formulation of plans to mitigate the effects of development on any archaeology that might be present.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr N Truckle, of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Helen Moore assisted by Andy Muddin, on the 26th and 27th September, 2001. The site code is HTD01. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is a low-lying 1225sq m parcel of land, located towards the northern end of High Street, Stratford, at its junction with Carpenters Road. The river Lea, a major tributary of the Thames, flows immediately to the west. At the time of the evaluation, the Green Man Public House was still standing, and the site was in the process of being demolished and cleared (Fig. 2). The modern ground surface lay at c. 4.7m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The underlying geology is Taplow gravel, with deposits of alluvium, composed of sand, silt and clay, lying above it (BGS 1994).

Archaeological background

Archaeological finds and sites from all periods are recorded on the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record

(GLSMR) in the environs of High Street, Stratford, and the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, both in general and in terms of specific periods and site types. The valley of the river Lea has long been recognized as a particularly rich area for prehistoric finds especially.

There are a number of entries for the Palaeolithic period, mainly to the north of the site. They are likely to be lower Palaeolithic hand axes and have mainly been redeposited in the Lea Valley gravels (MoLAS 2000).

The Mesolithic period is represented by important finds to the north of the site, including flint implements and a boat, likely to have been found as a result of disturbance to the alluvial deposits. The possibility of finding similar material in this part of the floodplain within the alluvium was evident, as *in situ* lithic and faunal scatters have been found, sometimes located on low gravel or sand islands within the floodplain (Lewis *et al.* 1992). These islands would have remained relatively dry when adjacent areas were flooded, and would have been occupied and used as working areas for activities such as butchery or flint tool production. The exploration of sites of the transition from Upper Palaeolithic to Early Mesolithic, such as might be encountered in the topographic setting of the site, is an important national research objective (EH 1991; 1997).

Finds from the Neolithic period in the area are generally of flint and stone axeheads, a great many of which have been dredged from the Thames. Their frequent association with watery environments suggests that for some, at least, there is a ritual significance to their deposition (see below). Neolithic sites have been discovered in various places in the Greater London area, either buried by, or located on, alluvium, illustrating the importance of floodplains as the location of Neolithic occupation sites.

The GLSMR lists a number of entries for Bronze Age material from the general vicinity of the site. Bronze metalwork finds have included a palstave, a rapier, a shield, a knife and a spearhead that may have been deliberately deposited in water, and are likely to have been recovered from the alluvial deposits of the Lea Valley. Prestige artefacts such as these items of metalwork are repeatedly recovered from wetland contexts and while some may represent accidental loss, others were deliberately thrown into rivers (Bradley 1990). A Bronze Age cremation was recovered to the north of the site, and a possible crannog in the form of wooden piles was recorded at Cooks Ferry.

Iron Age finds from the area have all been recovered from alluvial deposits, and include coins, a spearhead, a sword and a possible boat.

Most of the finds and sites relating to the Roman period are located along the route of Ermine Street, the Roman road from London to Lincoln, which runs to the north of the site. Finds have also been recovered from the floodplain and include coins and pins.

The Saxon period is not very well represented, but from the medieval period a large number of sites and finds are recorded.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. It was agreed that two trenches would be dug, 2m wide and 15m long. These were to be located in the former car park of the pub, as the building was still in existence at the time of the evaluation. The trenches were to be excavated using a JCB-type machine under constant supervision by an archaeologist. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

The two trenches were dug in the positions proposed. However, the presence of the building and the demolition contractors' facilities restricted the working area for the JCB and the trenches dug were wider but shorter than originally intended. The concrete was broken out and then removed with a ditching bucket. Beneath made ground, the alluvial deposits were removed in spits of about 0.20m and the surface of each spit was examined for archaeological features and finds. The trenches were stepped due to their depth to enable safe access.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

This was located in the south-eastern area of the site. It was aligned NW-SE, and was 3.70m deep. Concrete (50), 0.12m deep, overlay made ground (51), 1m thick, composed of a dark grey-black silty sand with banded compact clinker layers and brick pieces. This made ground overlay another deposit of made ground (52), 0.80m thick, that was a dark grey-black silty sand with pale orange and darker orange bands. It had a band of compacted flint gravel and broken modern tile and brick within it. Pottery, bottle glass and clay pipe dating to the 19th to 20th centuries were present in this deposit. Directly below this was a layer of yellowy-brown sandy silt (53), 0.65m thick, with small brick fragment inclusions. Clay pipe dating from the 18th to 19th centuries was present in this deposit. Below this was light greyish blue deposit of alluvium (54) composed of a silty clay 0.96m deep. This had occasional brick inclusions and flecks of organic material within it. No other finds were present in this deposit. Below this lay another layer of alluvium (55), which was yellowy-grey clayey silt 0.40m thick. This had gravel inclusions but no finds. The greyish-yellow natural Taplow gravels (56) were revealed below

this sloping from the north-western end of the trench at 1.54m OD to the south-eastern end at 1.31m OD. No archaeological features were cut into this, and none were seen in the alluvium above it.

Trench 2 (Plate 2)

This was located on the access road into the car park on the northern part of the site, and was aligned NE-SW. It lay between the north-western wall of the pub and the boundary wall of the site. It was 2.70m deep. Concrete (57), 0.12m thick, overlay a layer of made ground (58) composed of dark brown-black silty sand with clinker lumps, gravel and yellow brick pieces. This lay directly above a brick surface (59) one brick thick, stained black by the made ground, approximately 2m wide and continuing the full length of the trench. It is likely that it was a former road/yard surface. Below this was more made ground (60) composed of crushed clinker pieces, from 0.27m-0.50m thick, likely to be a bedding layer for the brick surface above. Another layer of made ground (61) revealed below this was 1m thick, composed of dark brown-grey sandy silt with moderate rubble and brick pieces. This sealed a layer of brown-grey sand with some gravel (62), 0.43m thick, with no finds present. A layer of alluvium (63) composed of brown-grey sandy silt lay below this, 0.49m thick, also with no finds. The natural brown-grey gravel (64) was sealed by this, and lay at 1.86m AOD. No archaeological features were observed cutting either the gravel or the overlying layers of alluvium.

Finds

Modern (19th-20th century) pottery and ceramic building materials, and clay pipe (18th-19th century) were the only finds present, and these were from the layers of made ground, or in the case of Trench 1 in the topmost layer of alluvium. They were not retained.

Conclusion

No archaeological features or finds were recovered from either of the trenches, nor from an examination of the spoilheaps or the natural gravel surface. The evaluation has shown that the river Lea has flooded, probably from post-glacial times onwards, depositing alluvium in this area up to 1.80m deep, but no archaeological horizons were encountered within it. Made ground was consequently banked up presumably to counter the risk of flooding, probably from the 18th century, as clay pipe and bottle glass from the top of the highest layer of alluvium and within the lowest layer of made ground suggest.

Topographically, the absolute height of the natural Taplow gravels varies within and between the trenches. The base of Trench 1 sloped down to the south-east to 1.31m AOD from a high point to the north-west at 1.54m

AOD. This may indicate a deeper channel, with the possibility of gravel islands, or it may just be an undulating gravel surface. The top of the gravel in Trench 2 was more horizontal, at 1.86m AOD.

References

- BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 256, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Bradley, R., 1990, *The Passage of Arms: An Archaeological Analysis of Prehistoric Hoards and Votive Deposits*, Cambridge
- EH, 1991, *Exploring Our Past*, English Heritage, London
- EH, 1997, 'English Heritage Archaeology Division Research agenda (draft)'
- Lewis, J, Macphail, R, and Wiltshire, P, 1992, 'A late Devensian/Early Flandrian Site at Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge: Environmental Impacts', in S Needham and M Macklin (eds), *Alluvial Archaeology in Britain*, Oxbow Monogr 27, Oxford
- MoLAS, 2000, *The Archaeology of Greater London*, Museum of London Archaeology Service, London
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at south or west end

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	16.60 (top) 7.0 (alluvium)	2.8	3.60	Concrete overlay two layers of made ground 1.70m thickness, which in turn overlay a yellowy-brown sandy silt alluvium 0.65m deep. Underneath this was a light greyish blue layer of silty clay alluvium 1m thick overlying a yellowy-grey clayey silt 0.40m thickness. The natural Tuptow gravels were located at 1.54 to 1.31m AOD.
2	9.8 (top) 6.6 (alluvium)	2.8	2.60	Concrete overlay a layer of made ground 0.45m thickness. Immediately below this was a brick surface, one brick thick possibly an old road, which was bedded on to a layer of crushed clinker 0.52m thickness. Another layer of made ground 1m thick lay below this, which in turn overlay a brown-grey sandy gravel alluvium 0.43m thick. A brown grey sandy silt alluvium 0.49m thickness overlay the natural Tuptow gravels, which were encountered at 1.86m AOD.

APPENDIX 2: GLSMR/RCHME NAR Archaeological Report Form

1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

2. LOCATION

Borough: Newham

Address: The Green Man Public House, 196 High Street, Stratford, London

Name: The Green Man Public House, 196 High Street, Stratford, London

Site Code: H1D01

National Grid Refs: TQ 3848 8382 **Centre of site:** TQ 3848 8382

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Address: 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR

Site director/supervisor: Helen Moore

Project manager: Helen Moore

Funded by: London Inn Hotels Limited.

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 26/9/01

Date finished: 27/9/01

Fieldwork previously notified? y/n: No

Fieldwork will continue? y/n/ not known: No

5. PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic: -

Roman: -

Mesolithic: -

Saxon (pre-AD 1066): -

Neolithic:

Medieval(1066-1485): -

Bronze Age:

Post-Medieval: -

Iron Age: -

Unknown: -

6. PERIOD SUMMARIES (use headings for each period (ROMAN;MEDIEVAL; ETC.) and additional sheets if necessary).

Nil

7. NATURAL

Type: Alluvium above gravel

Height above Ordnance Datum: 1.31m-1.90m (gravel)

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

a) Please tick those categories still in your possession:

Notes Yes Plans Yes Photos Yes Negatives Yes

Slides Yes Correspondence Yes MScripts (unpublished reports, etc.) All

b) All records will be deposited in the following museum, record office, etc. Museum of London

c) Approximate year of transfer: unknown

d) Location of any copies: Microfiche copy to be deposited with RCHME, and one to be kept by TVAS

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? y/n: No, but will be microfiched in due course

If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? y/n: no

9. LOCATION OF FINDS:

a) In your possession (All/Some/None): None

b) All finds will be deposited with the following museum: N/A

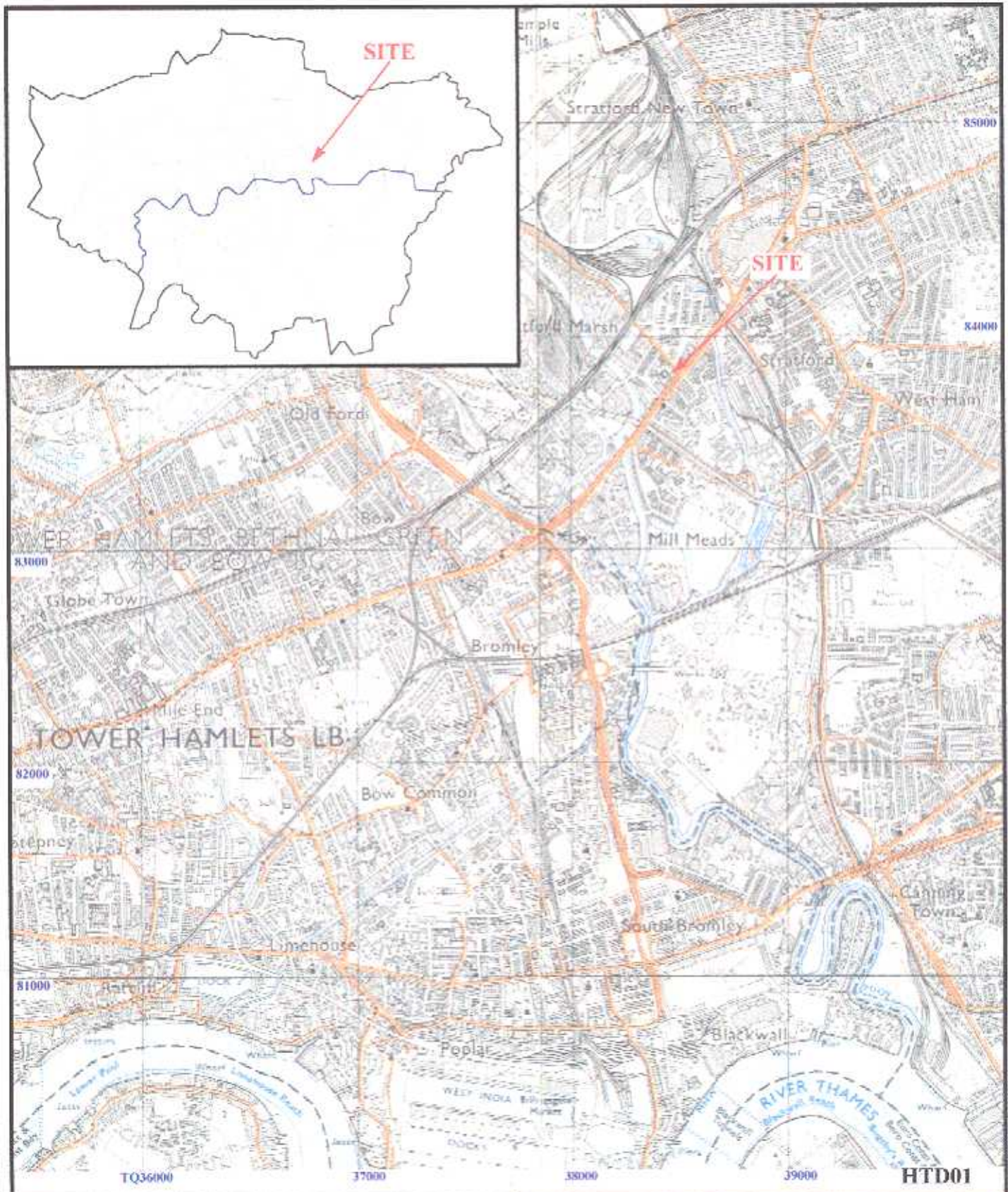
c) Approximate year of transfer: N/A

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Moore, H, 2001, The Green Man Public House, 196 High Street, Stratford, London Borough of Newham, an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd Report 01/90, Reading

SIGNED: Helen Moore

DATE: 24th October 2001



**196 High Street, Stratford,
London Borough of Newham, 2001**

Figure 1. Location of site within Stratford and
Greater London.

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T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

196 High Street, Stratford, London Borough of Newham, 2001

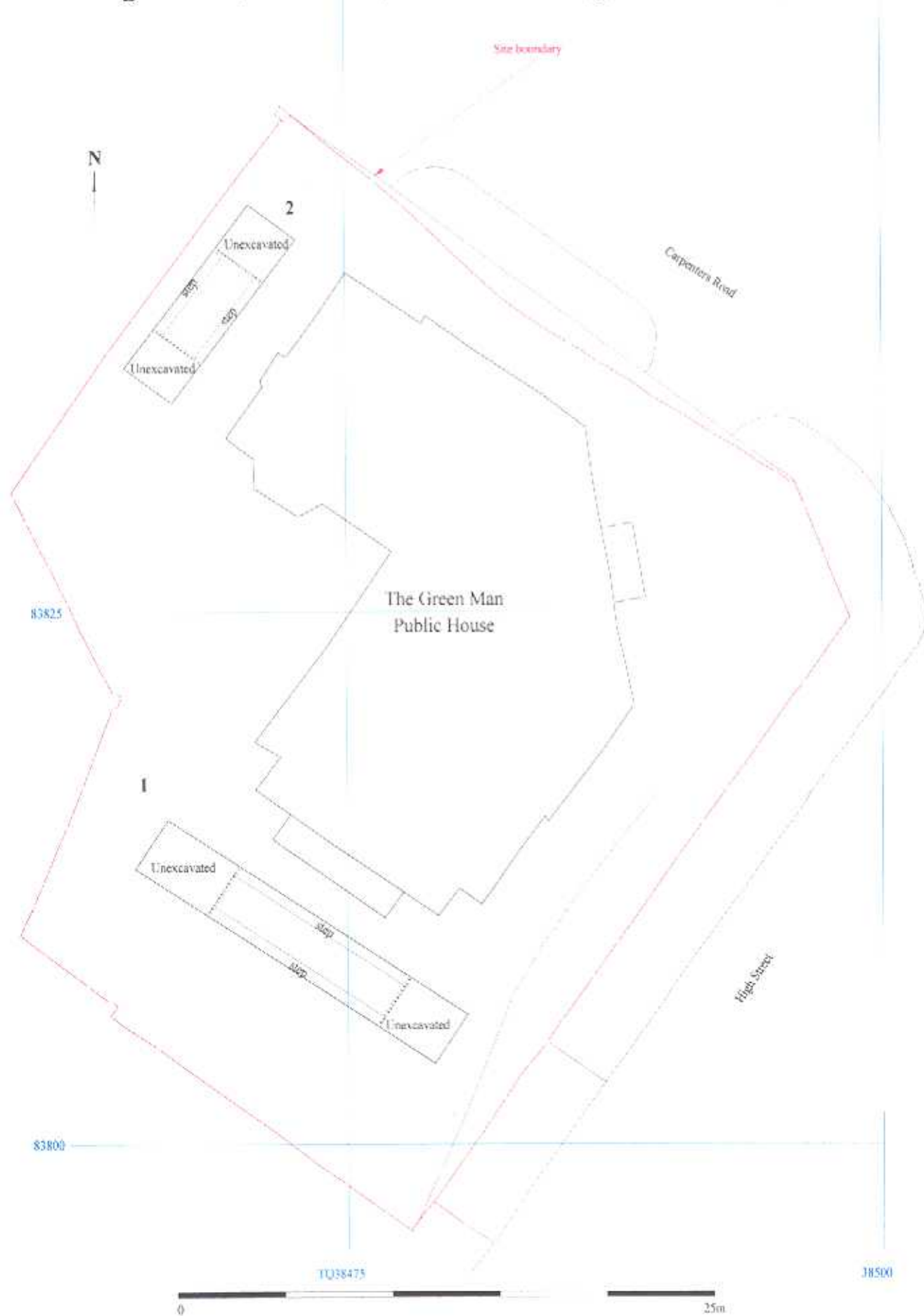


Figure 2. Plan of site showing location of trenches.

196 High Street, Stratford, London Borough of Newham, 2001

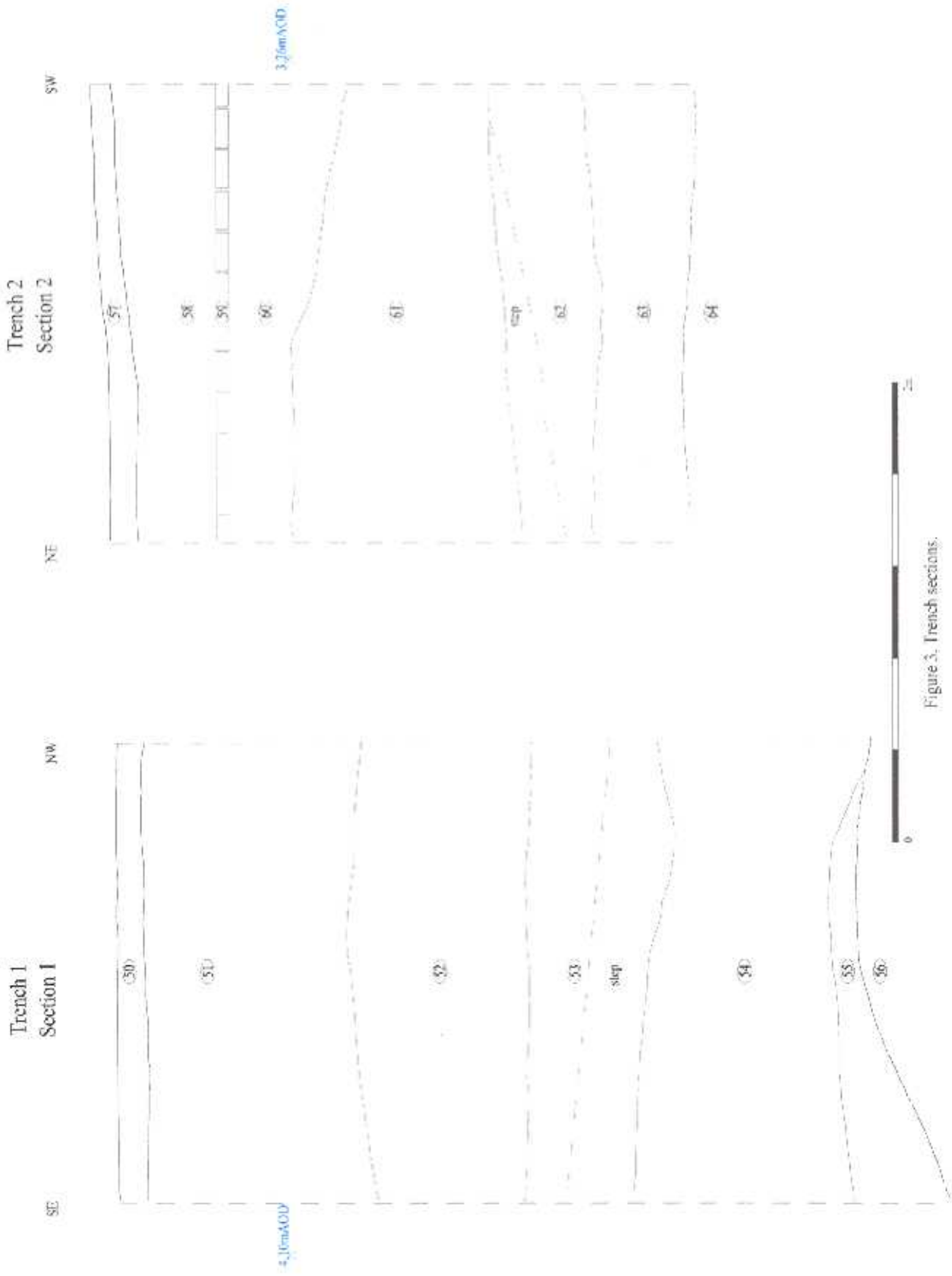


Figure 3. Trench sections.



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking south showing made ground, scale: 2m.

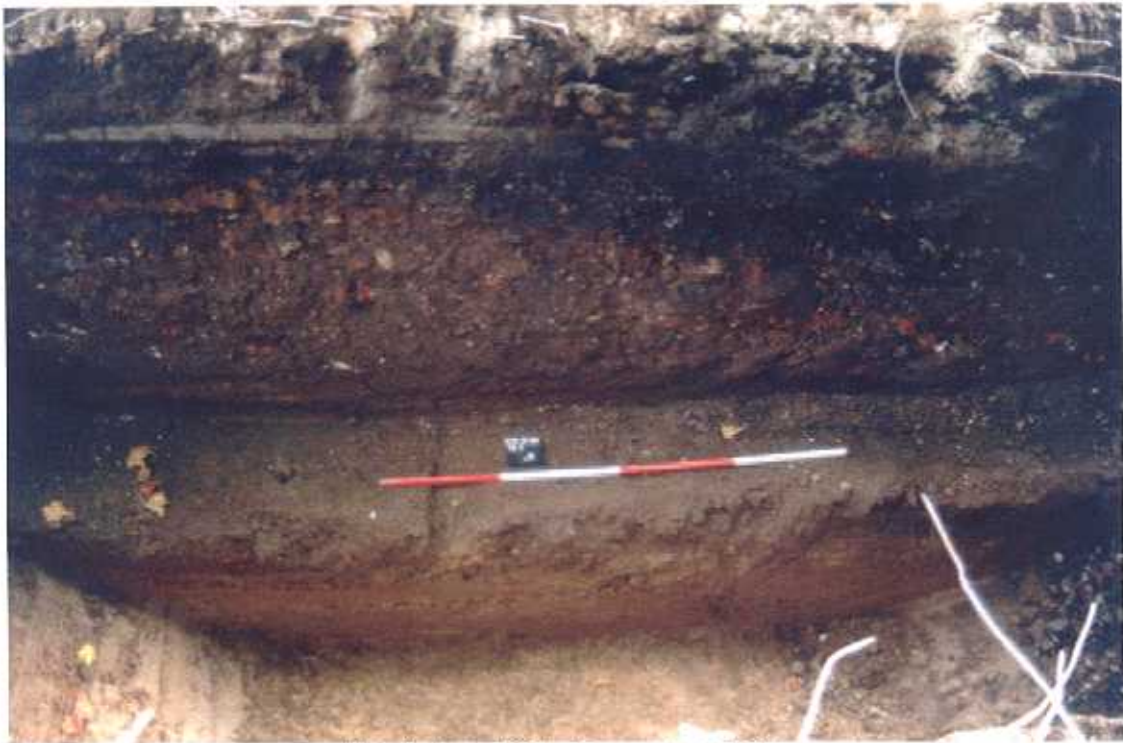


Plate 2. Trench 2 looking west, scale 2m.