

**164–178 London Road and 1–5 Coombe Road,
London Borough of Kingston on Thames**

An Archaeological Evaluation

For George Wimpey, West London Ltd

By Clare Challis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code LDS03

May 2003

Summary

Site name: 164-178 London Road and 1-5 Coombe Road, London Borough of Kingston on Thames

Grid reference: TQ 1908 6955

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 1st and 6th May 2003

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Clare Challis

Site code: LDS03

Area of site: 0.18 hectares

Summary of results: Four pit/gullies and two gullies dated to the Medieval period.

Monuments identified: Four pit/gullies and two gullies.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 19.05.03
	Steve Preston✓ 16.05.03

164–178 London Road and 1–5 Coombe Road, London Borough of Kingston on Thames An Archaeological Evaluation

by Clare Challis

Report 03/17

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 164–178 London Road and 1–5 Coombe Road, London Borough of Kingston on Thames (TQ 1908 6955) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Bill Luck, Senior Design and Planning Executive, George Wimpey West London Ltd, Stratfield House, Station Road, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9PQ.

A resolution to grant planning permission (02/12024/FUL) has been made by the London Borough of Kingston for the construction of flats, offices, shops and a gym along with basement car parking. A field evaluation has been requested to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to mitigate the effects of the development.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Mark Stevenson, Archaeology Advisor at the Greater London Advisory Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Clare Challis and Sean Wallis between 1st and 6th May 2003 and the site code is LDS03.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at The Museum of London in due course. The TVAS project code is LDS03/17.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies within a triangular piece of land bordered by London Road, Coombe Road and Station Road and is located to the east of Kingston town centre just south of the railway line between the town and that of Norbiton. Those buildings that previously occupied the site have since been demolished. The area of Hampton Court is situated to the west of the site on the opposite bank of the River Thames and the Borough of New Malden directly to the east (Fig. 1). The site lies to the east of the River Thames and to the north of the Hogsmill River and the underlying geology is that of river brickearth and London clay (BGS 1981) which was confirmed in the trenches. The site lies at approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area that is considered as being of high archaeological potential. This is due to its proximity to the historic core of Kingston on Thames. Kingston was an important market town which, positioned on the Thames as the first river crossing upstream of London Bridge, functioned as an inland port for trade between Surrey and London (Miller and Stephenson 1999). Archaeological finds indicate scattered industrial activity in the hinterland of the town which was a centre for tanning, brewing and malting along with evidence for pottery and clay-pipe kilns (Kendall 2000).

Several finds of interest have been located within the immediate vicinity of the site. On London Road itself a watching brief revealed three post-medieval pits (Howe *et al*, 2002) and an evaluation on Galsworthy Road, found heavily abraded sherds of possible Roman and post-Roman ceramics in 19th century redeposited material (Bird *et al*, 1996). Excavations, also on London Road, recorded a Quaker Burial ground in use between 1664 and 1814 (Kirk 1998). Evidence of earlier occupation in the area has been recorded in Cromwell Road where an evaluation found residual flints ranging in date from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age as well as burnt flint indicating prehistoric activity over a long period of time. Also at this location were revealed early medieval pottery and pits as well as evidence of medieval building activity (Howe *et al*, 2001).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. Three trenches (Fig. 2) were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. All three trenches were to be dug to a length of 15m. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. The excavation of the trenches was to be halted when any significant archaeological layers or deposits were revealed and then the surface hand cleaned and excavated.

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

Results

Three trenches were dug in total, two of these being over 15m long and the third being over 16m long.

Trench 1

The stratigraphy consisted of mid-brown silty clay made ground with moderate stones, moderate brick and tile and occasional fragments of concrete. This directly overlay the orange silty clay natural, which had iron pan mottling. Three pits or gullies (1, 2 and 4) were observed extending from the southern section of the trench. These were all cut into the natural and were all filled with an orangey brown silty clay. They all appeared to lie parallel with one another and 1 and 4 both contained pottery sherds. The features all occurred very close to the section edges and it was not possible to ascertain whether they represented pits or additional gullies. One gully (3) was also recorded, oriented north-south, filled with an orangey brown silty clay (52). This feature contained medieval pottery and fragments of clay pipe. One land drain was observed lying across the trench oriented north-south. One modern pit was recorded extending from the northern section cutting from the surface of the trench into the natural at the western end. It measured 5.30m in length and was filled with a mid brown silty clay containing bricks, glass, concrete fragments and tile.

Trench 2

The stratigraphy consisted of mid brown silty clay made ground with moderate stones, brick and tile. This directly overlay the natural orange silty clay with bluish clay mottling. One sherd of pottery was recovered pressed into the natural clay. One pit or gully terminus (6) was observed at the southern end of the trench measuring 0.5m in width. This contained a mid orangey brown fill (55) with occasional charcoal flecking and contained seven sherds of pottery. A gully (5) was recorded at the northern end of the trench aligned east-west and 0.35m wide. It was filled with a mid brown silty clay (54) and one sherd of pottery. A modern borehole was recorded at the southern end of the trench, penetrating the natural.

Trench 3

The stratigraphy consisted of dark brown silty clay made ground containing frequent roots, occasional modern pottery and tile and brick fragments. This overlay a layer of what appeared to be redeposited natural 0.10m thick containing fragments of brick and tile. This layer overlay the brownish orange silty clay with patches of small gravels. One service pipe was observed entering the trench from the eastern section. Two modern pits were recorded cutting the natural and also appearing in section. They consisted of a modern brick structure and a pit both containing modern pottery, brick, tile and glass. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were observed in this trench.

Finds

Pottery by Roy Stephenson

The post-Roman pottery assemblage consisted of 11 sherds from 11 vessels, recovered from four stratified contexts, and one unstratified group (Appendix 3). The assemblage has been quantified using the Museum of London Specialist Services medieval and post-medieval London type-series. Following standard Museum of London conventions, the spot dating has been recorded on paper and the results entered onto an Excel spreadsheet. All of the assemblage was from small sized groups (contexts yielding less than 30 sherds).

Saxon and Medieval fabric and forms (c. 450–1480)

There is a solitary sherd of earlier material a rim from an Early Surrey Ware bowl from a gully (5) (54), which dates from the mid 11th century, but is residual in a context dating from the mid 12th century. The bulk of the pottery appears to variants of Limpsfield type ware (Prendergast 1974), dating to 1150–1350, the exception being a very small sherd of London Type ware (Pearce *et al* 1985), with external green glaze from gully (5) (54).

Clearly the bulk of the material is dated by the presence of Limpsfield type ware, dating from the mid 12th to mid 14th centuries, presumably derived from local settlement in Norbiton. The nature of the fabrics is very similar to that excavated at the roadside settlement in from Elmwood Playing Fields in Hackbridge (LA 1995). The absence of Surrey white ware from the kilns at nearby Kingston possibly could be used to narrow the date range to a pre Kingston White Ware date which may mean the assemblage is dated 1150–1230.

Animal Bone by Sian Anthony

Three fragments of animal bone were retrieved (Appendix 4); a sheep/goat vertebra from (3) and a sheep/ goat mandible with no *in situ* teeth and a cow-size rib with one transverse cut from (1). All are in excellent condition with no post-excavation damage.

Burnt Flint by Clare Challis

One piece of burnt flint weighing 16g was recovered from context (4) (53).

Clay Pipe by Clare Challis

One fragment of stem weighing 2g was recovered from context (2) (51). One complete bowl and one fragment of stem weighing 24g were recovered from context (3) (52).

Brick and Tile by Clare Challis

One fragment of brick weighing 18g was recovered from context (1) (50). Seven pieces of brick weighing 28g were recovered from context (2) (51). Five pieces of brick weighing 52g were recovered from context (3) (52).

Conclusion

The evaluation has produced features and artefactual evidence that show that archaeological deposits of Medieval and early Post-medieval date survive on this site. The features observed are concentrated to the south-west and north-western areas of the site in Trenches 1 and 2, with modern disturbance occurring in the area of Trench 3. In Trench 1, one gully (3) is dated to the Post-medieval period through fragments of clay pipe, although it contained one sherd of Medieval pottery which is probably residual. Three other features (1), (2) and (4) were observed, representing pits or gully termini lying parallel to gully (3). These features are dated to the Post-medieval and Medieval periods with one undated. In Trench 2 another gully (5) was observed dated to Medieval times as was Feature (6). The gullies are mostly likely to represent property boundary features though there is also a possibility that they could represent structural remains such as beam slots

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at S or W end

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	15.80	1.6	1.0	0.00-0.84m Mid Brown silty clay made ground with moderate stones, brick and tile and concrete. 0.84m+ at approximately 8.90m AOD Orange silty clay natural with iron pan mottling. Three pit/gullies and one gully. (1), (2), (3), (4)
2	16.80	1.6	1.0	0.00-0.80m Mid Brown silty clay made ground with stones, brick and tile and concrete fragments. 0.80m+ at approximately 8.80m AOD Orange silty clay natural with iron pan mottling. One pit/gully and one gully. (5), (6)
3	15.50	1.6	0.83	0.00-0.74m Dark Brown silty clay made ground with frequent roots, occasional modern pottery and brick and tile. 0.74-0.83m Redeposited natural with occasional brick and tile. 0.83m+ at approximately 9.152m AOD Orangey Brown Silty Clay natural with occasional small gravels. No archaeological finds or features.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	50	Pit or Gully Terminus	Unknown	None
1	2	51	Pit or Gully Terminus	Post-Medieval	Clay Pipe
1	3	52	Gully	Post-Medieval	Clay Pipe
1	4	53	Pit or Gully Terminus	1150-1350	Pottery
2	5	54	Gully	1150-1350	Pottery
2	6	55	Pit or Gully Terminus	1150-1350	Pottery

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Pottery

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Overall date range</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Decoration</i>	<i>No sherds</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Comments</i>
	Tr2	Med	1150-1350	LIMP	-	-		1 S	
3	52	Med	1150-1350	LIMP	-	-		1	Oxidised fabric
4	53	Med	1150-1350	LIMP	-	-		1	
5	54	Med	1150-1350	LIMP	-	-		1	
6	55	Med	1050-1350	ESUR	Bowl	-		1 A	Rim
6	55	Med	1150-1350	LIMP	-	-		5	
6	55	Med	1150-1350	LOND	-	Grgl		1	

LIMP Limpsfield type ware
 ESUR Early Surrey Ware
 LOND London Type Ware

APPENDIX 4: Animal bone

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Sheep/goat</i>	<i>Cow-sized</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1	1	50	1 mandible	1 rib		Transverse cut mark on c-sz rib
1	3	52	1 vertebra			

APPENDIX 5: Other finds

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Clay pipe</i>	<i>Brick</i>	<i>Burnt Flint</i>
1	1	50		1 frag (18g)	
1	2	51	1 stem frag (2g)	7 frags (28g)	
1	3	52	1 bowl, 1 stem frag (24g)	5 frags (52 g)	
1	4	53			1 (16 g)

GLSMR/RCHME NAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

2. LOCATION

Borough: Kingston on Thames

Site Address: 164-178 London Road and 1-5 Coombe Road

Site Name: London Road, Kingston

Site Code: LDS 03 (03/17)

Nat. Grid Refs: **centre** of site: TQ 1908 6955

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit: Thames Valley Archaeological Services

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

Site director/supervisor: Clare Challis

Project manager: Steve Ford

Funded by: George Wimpey, West London Ltd

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 1st May 2003

Date finished: 6th May 2003

Fieldwork previously notified? NO

Fieldwork will continue? NOT KNOWN

5. PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic NO

Roman NO

Mesolithic NO

Saxon (pre-AD 1066) NO

Neolithic NO

Medieval (AD1066-1485) YES

Bronze Age NO

Post-Medieval YES

Iron Age NO

Unknown YES

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

MEDIEVAL

Two pits or gully termini (4) and (6) dated to 1150-1350. One gully (5) dated to 1150-1350 and oriented south-west north-east

POST MEDIEVAL

One pit or gully terminus (2) and one gully (3) aligned north-west south east.

UNKNOWN

One pit or gully terminus (1) was undated.

7. NATURAL

Type: Brickearth and London clay

Height above Ordnance Datum: Approximately 8.90m AOD

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVE

a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

NOtes **Plans 2 Sheets** **PHotos** **NGatives**

SLides **COrrrespondence** **MScripts (unpub reports, etc.)**

BULK finds 13 Small Bags **SMall finds None** **SOil Samples None**

OTHer (please specify)

b) The complete archive will be deposited in the following location: Museum of London (*indicate if correspondence is to be excluded, and if so, delete 'complete'*)

c) Approximate year of transfer: anticipated 2005

d) Location of any copies:

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? **WILL BE MICROFICED**

 If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? **NO**

9. LOCATION OF FINDS

a: In your possessions (delete as appropriate): **ALL**

b: All finds will be deposited with the Museum of London

Approximate year of transfer: anticipated 2005

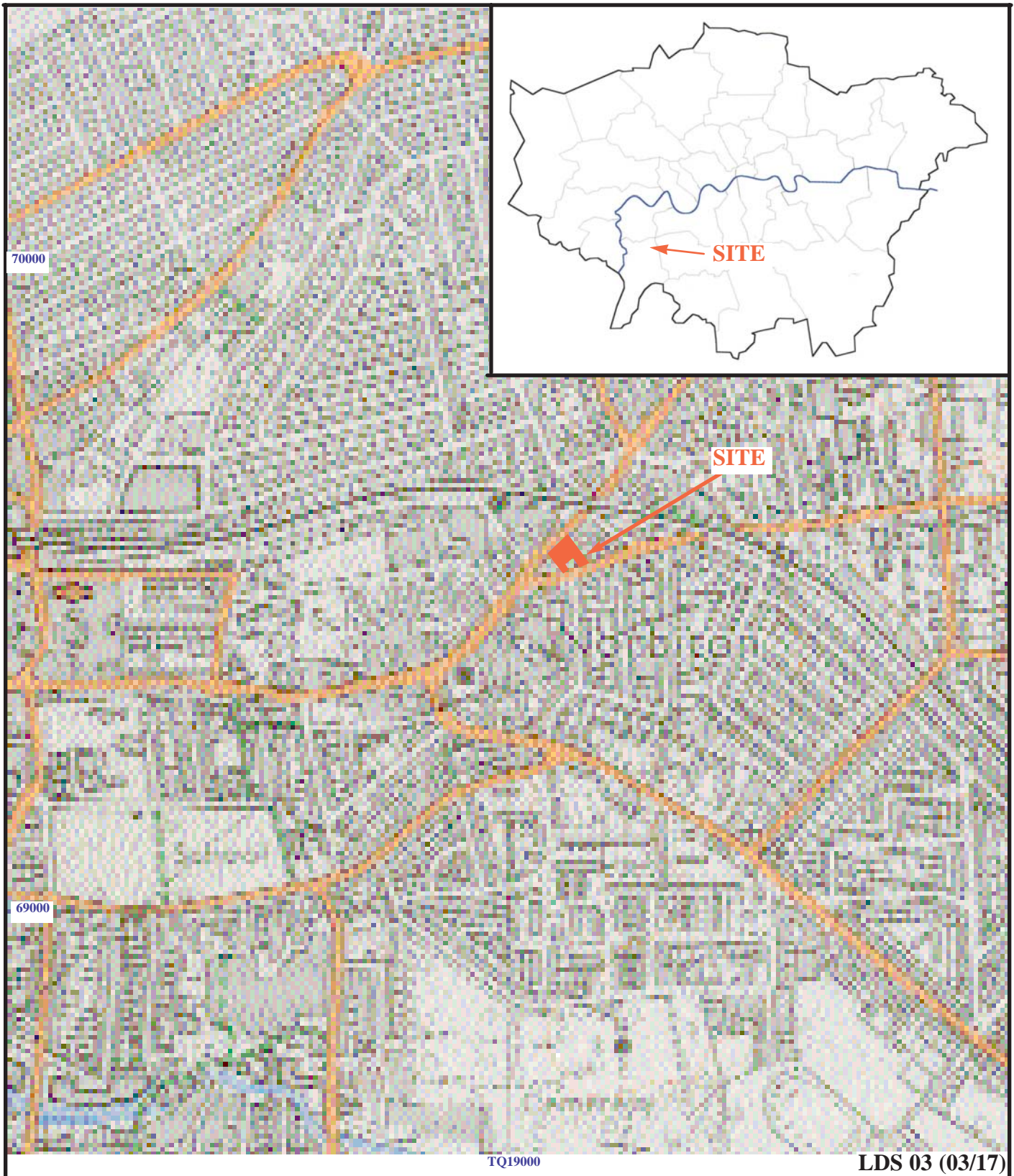
10. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Challis, C, 2003, 164-178 London Road and 1-5 Coombe Road, London Borough of Kingston on Thames, an archaeological evaluation. Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 03/17, Reading

SIGNED:

DATE: 19/5/03

NAME (Block capitals): CLARE CHALLIS



**164-178 London Road and 1-5 Coombe Road,
London Borough of Kingston on Thames, 2003
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Kingston on Thames 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

164-178 London Road and 1-5 Coombe Road, London Borough of Kingston on Thames, 2003

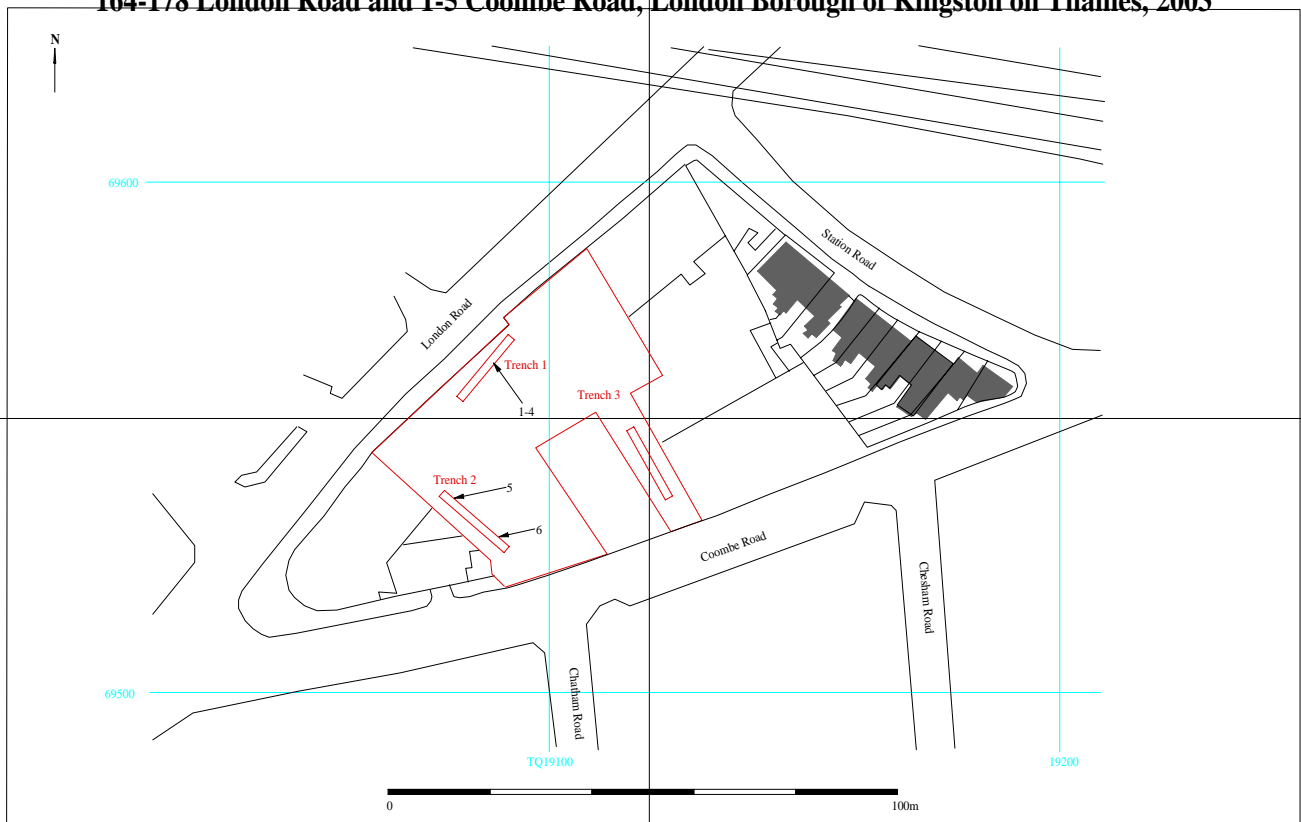
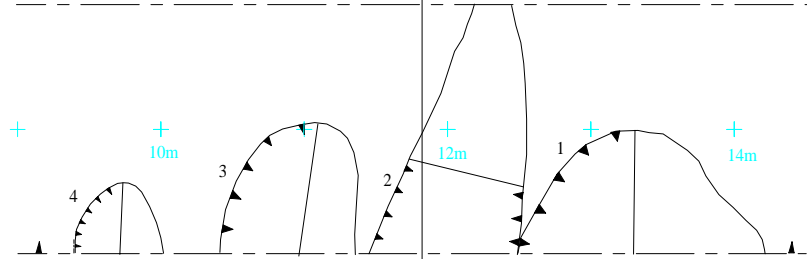


Figure 2. Detailed location of site and positions of trenches.

164-178 London Road & 1-5 Coombe Road,
London Borough of Kingston on Thames, 2003

Trench 1



Trench 2



Figure 3. Details of features from trenches.

164-178 London Road & 1-5 Coombe Road, London Borough of Kingston on Thames, 2003

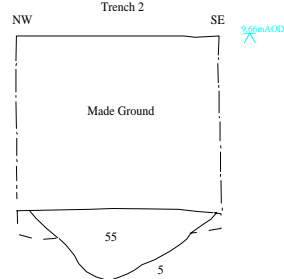
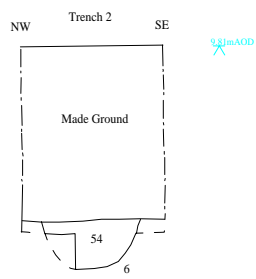
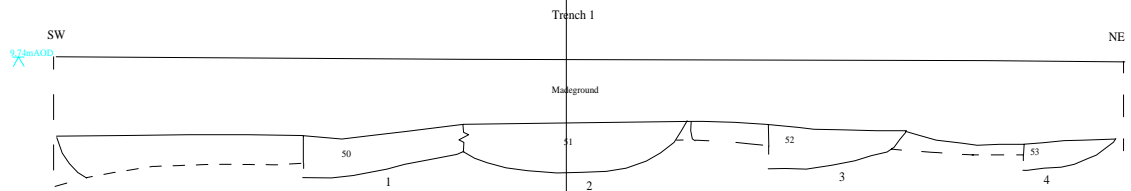


Figure 4. Sections.