

**144 London Road, Kingston upon Thames,
London Borough of Kingston**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for George Wimpey West London Ltd**

by Andy Taylor
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LKN 05

May 2005

Summary

Site name: 144 London Road, Kingston upon Thames, London Borough of Kingston

Grid reference: TQ 1905 6945

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 10th–11th May 2005

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: LKN 05

Area of site: c.0.45 hectares

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or finds were identified

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 27.05.05
	Steve Preston ✓ 26.05.05

144 London Road, Kingston upon Thames, London Borough of Kingston An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 04/63

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 144 London Road, Kingston upon Thames, London Borough of Kingston (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Slingo for George Wimpey West London Ltd, Stratfield House, Station Road, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9PQ.

Planning permission (app no 02/12257/FUL) has been gained from the London Borough of Kingston to redevelop the site for housing. This is subject to a condition (no 9) relating to archaeology requiring a programme of evaluation in order to devise a mitigation strategy.

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 with the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Jenny Ryder on the 10th and 11th May 2005 and the site code is LKN05. 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 LKN04/63.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on an irregular parcel of land of just under 0.5ha on the south-eastern side of London Road and Coombe Road, and west of Chatham Road, Kingston (Fig. 1). At the time of the evaluation the site was being prepared for redevelopment having previously been a petrol filling station. The site is relatively flat and the underlying geology consists of London Clay (BGS 1981) although the trenches excavated encountered brickearth. The site lies at height of c.10m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area from which a number of sites and finds are recorded of various periods (MoLAS 2000) and the environs of the site appears to reflect a focus of activity in medieval and later times. The Greater London Sites and Monuments record was consulted in August 2004. A small number of prehistoric finds have been located in the vicinity, including struck flints, a flint scraper and a polished greenstone axe. These point to

some earlier prehistoric activity in the area but not, as yet any deposits identifiable as occupation remains.. The main finds nearby of interest, however, are from the Saxon/medieval period. Medieval plot boundaries were identified in an evaluation immediately to the north of the site (Challis 2003) and a medieval and later manor house (now demolished) was located to the west of the site. It was considered possible that further components of a manorial complex lay within the vicinity of the site.. A number of finds of medieval pottery sherds are recorded to the south-west of the site. The early post-medieval period is also noteworthy for this area with a number of listed post-medieval buildings present. The two main items of interest are a chapel, and the site of a Quaker burial ground. The quaker burial ground has been evaluated and excavated and over 380 burials have been recorded, the earliest dating from 1664.

A review of some cartographic sources shows that the site lies beyond the historic core of Kingston but that in post-medieval times, much of London Road to the west is now developed. On John Rocque's map of 1768 (Fig. 3) the site can be identified relative to the road layout and the position of the manor complex of Norbiton Hall just to the west. The site is undeveloped at that time and lies in an area of fields. In later times, the Ordnance Survey map of 1913 (not illustrated) shows the presence of a large building within a large area of grounds presumably as named, a lodge for the hall. This building subsequently became a club and eventually was demolished for the present day structures.

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.

Specific aims of the project were;

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site given that parts of the site have been previously developed.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- c) To determine if there are any deposits of Roman date are present.
- d) To determine if there are any deposits of Saxon or Medieval date present.

Originally five trenches, each 21m long had been proposed. However, due to various site constraints it was only possible to dig three of the five planned trenches. This change was agreed in consultation with Mr. Stevenson of English Heritage. Trenches were dug using a 360°-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results (Figs 2 and 4)

Three trenches were dug and which were between 18m and 22m long. 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 trench was 21m long and the stratigraphy consisted of made ground overlying brickearth natural. No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were recorded. A representative section of this trench can be found in Figure 4.

Trench 2 (Plate 2)

This trench was 18m long and the stratigraphy consisted of made ground overlying brickearth natural. No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 3

This trench was 22m long and the stratigraphy consisted of made ground overlying a contaminated brickearth layer overlying clean natural brickearth. No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were recorded.

Finds

No finds of an archaeological nature were identified. Only fragments of modern brick and tile were observed in the spoilheaps and these were not retained.

Conclusion

Despite the problems of not being able to evaluate the whole area as originally intended it appears that much of the site as already been severely truncated by the presence of underground tanks associated with the former petrol station on the site. Within the trenches excavated no archaeological deposits or finds were identified. It therefore seems unlikely that any archaeology would be disturbed during the building process.

References

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Challis, C, 2003, 164-178 London Road and 1-5 Coombe Road, London Borough of Kingston on Thames,
Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 03/17 (LDS03), Reading
English Heritage, 1991, *Exploring our past*. English Heritage, London.
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PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

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	21.00	2.00	1.40	0.00m-0.60m mid grey made ground (brick rubble); 0.60m-1.30m orangey brown sand made ground (brick rubble); 1.30m+ brickearth natural at 8.44m AOD. [Plate 1]
2	18.00	2.00	1.50	0.00m-0.30m mid grey made ground (brick rubble); 0.30m-0.60m orangey brown sandy made ground (made ground); 0.60m-1.45m light grey silty clay; 1.45m-1.50m+ brickearth natural at 8.38m AOD. [Plate 2]
3	22.00	2.00	1.40	0.00m-0.70m mid grey made ground (brick rubble); 0.70m-1.20m orangey brown sandy made ground (brick rubble); 1.20m-1.35m contaminated brickearth; 1.35m-1.40m+ brickearth natural. at 8.54m AOD.

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OASIS ID: thamesva1-8416

Project details

Project name 144 London Road, Kingston upon Thames

Short description of the project Three evaluation trenches revealed that the site had already been extensively truncated; no archaeology was observed.

Project dates Start: 10-05-2005 End: 11-05-2005

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes LKN05 - Museum accession ID

Any associated project reference codes LKN04-63 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes 02/12257/FUL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

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

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON KINGSTON UPON THAMES KINGSTON UPON THAMES 144
London Road

Study area 0.45 Hectares

National grid reference TO 1905 6945 Point

Height OD Min: 8.38m Max: 8.54m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Steve Ford
 Project director/manager Steve Ford
 Project supervisor Andy Taylor
 Sponsor or funding body Developer

Project archives

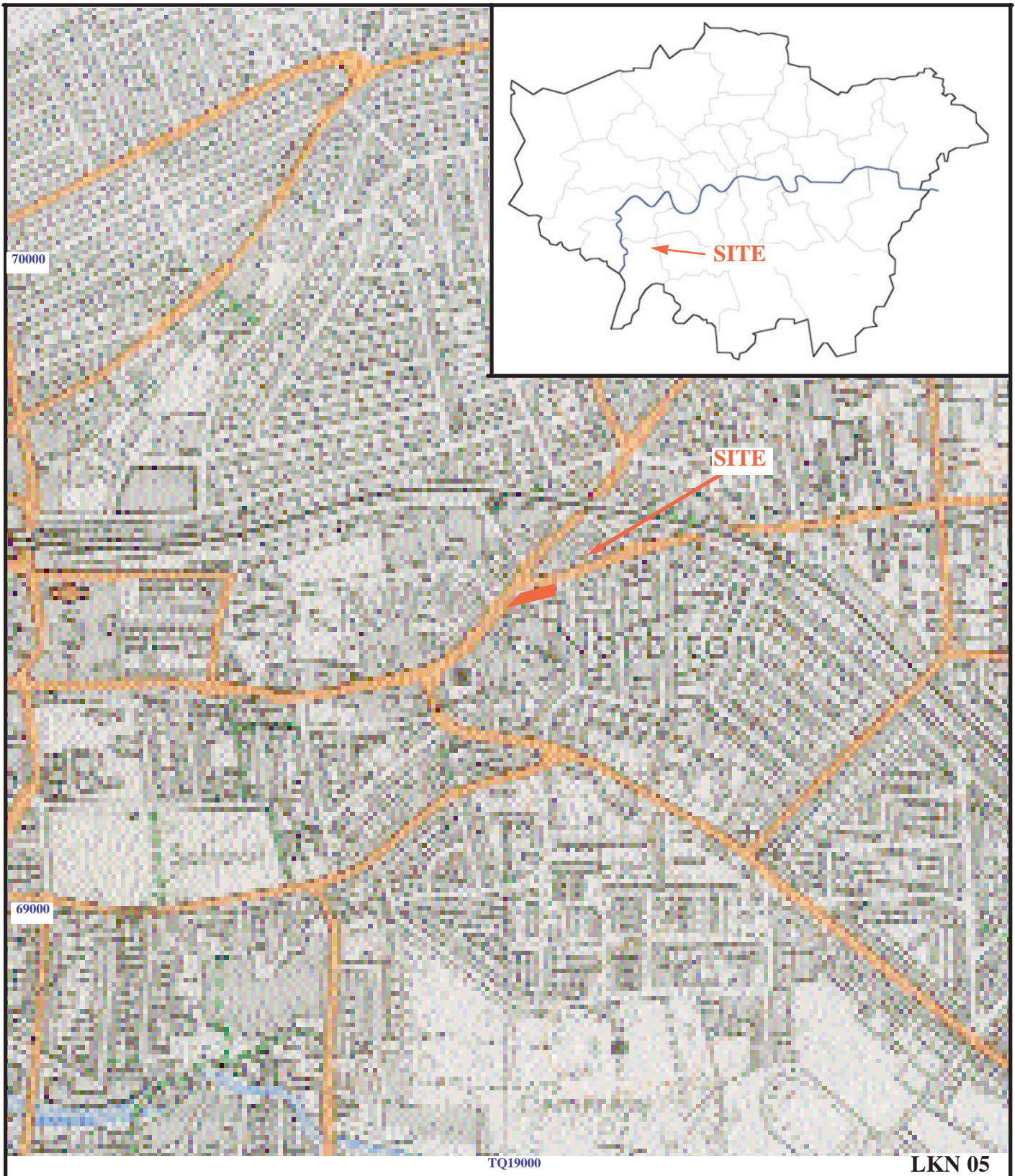
Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive Exists? NO
 Paper Archive recipient Museum of London
 Paper Archive ID LKN05
 Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'
 Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'
 Paper Archive notes temporarily with TVAS in Reading pending deposition
 Paper Archive Exists? Yes

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title 144 London Road, Kingston upon Thames: an archaeological evaluation
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Figure 1. Location of site within Kingston on Thames and Greater London.

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 A R C H A E O L O G I C A L
 S E R V I C E S

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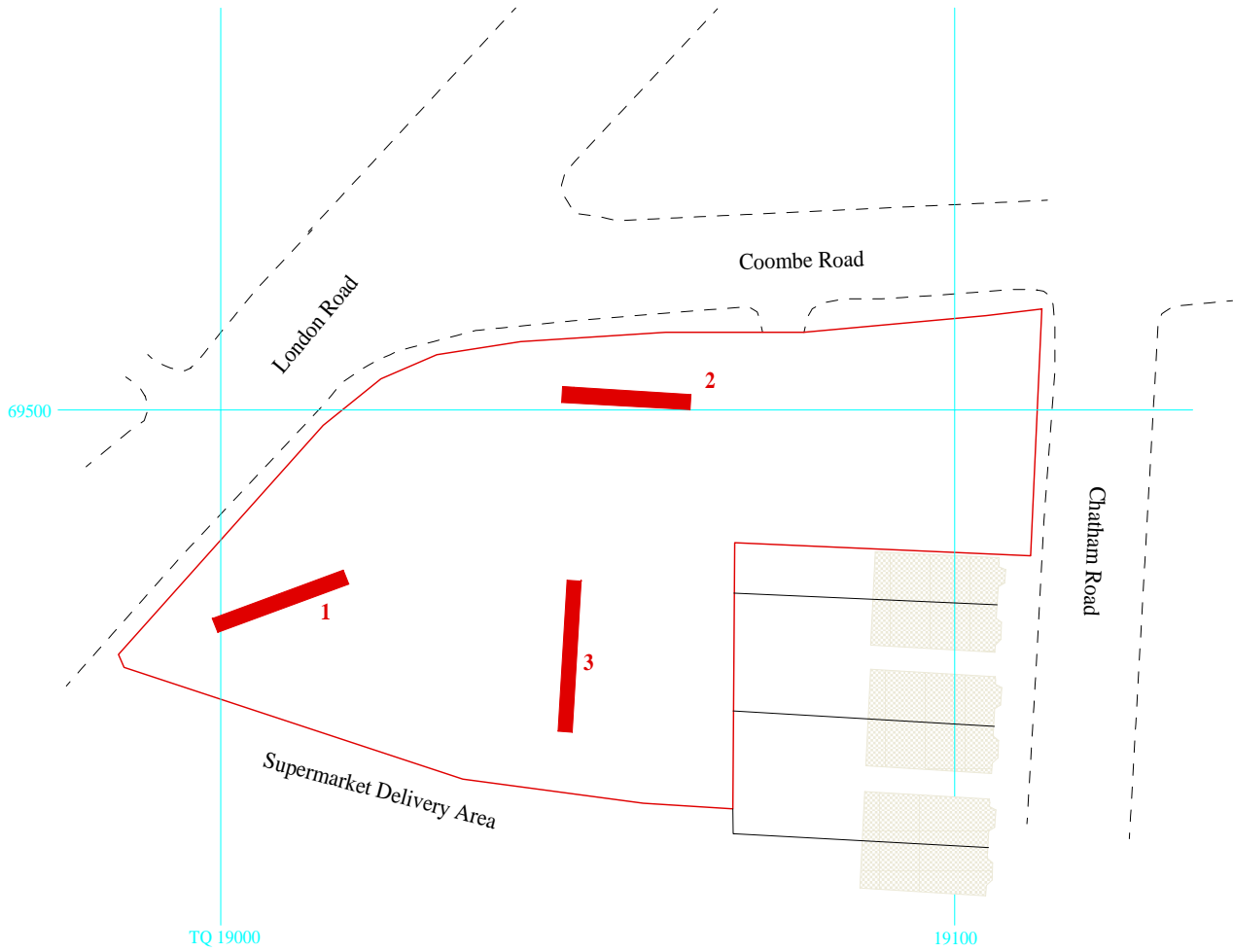
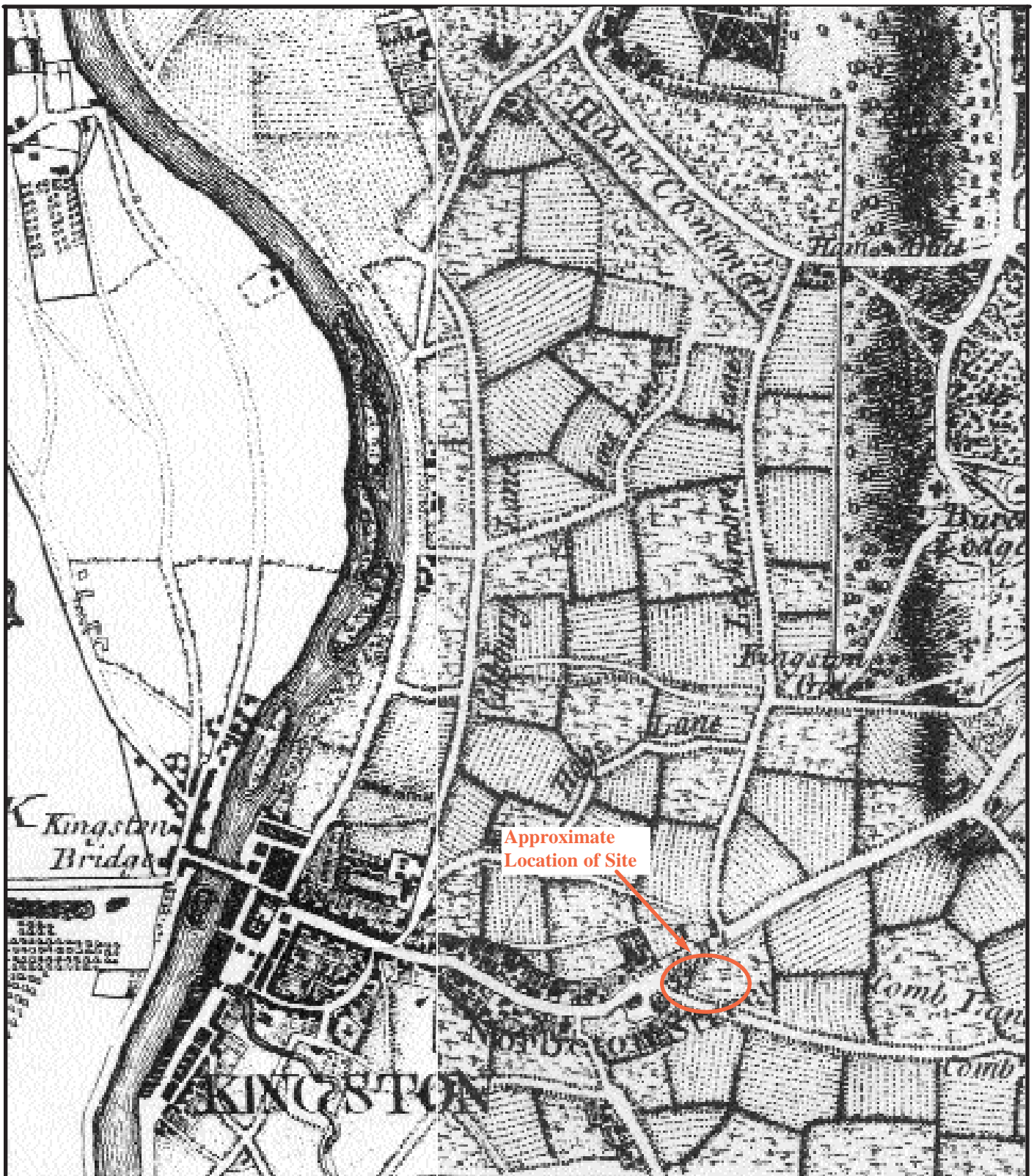


Figure 2: Trench Location



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Figure 3. John Rocque's map of 1768.

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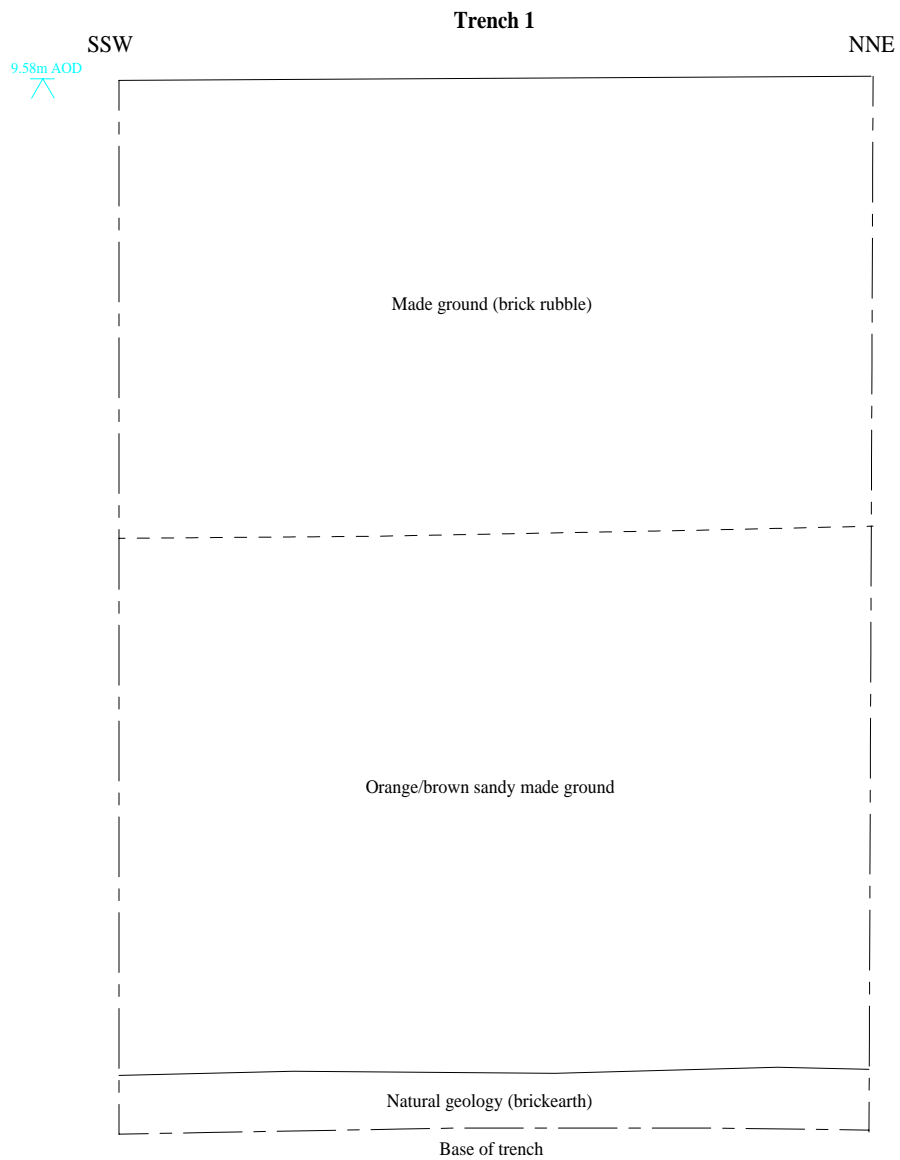


Figure 4: Section of Trench 1



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east, horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking east, horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 2m.