

**13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick
London Borough of Richmond**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Moorland Homes Ltd**

by Stephen Hammond
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SNT 02

February 2002

Summary

Site name: 13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick. London Borough of Richmond

Grid reference: TQ1748 6947

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 21st – 22nd February 2002

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Stephen Hammond

Site code: SNT 02

Area of site: 864 sq m

Summary of results: One late post-medieval pit was discovered. No archaeological features were found.

Monuments identified: None

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 27.02.02
	Steve Preston ✓ 28.02.02

13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond An Archaeological Evaluation

by Stephen Hammond

Report 02/15

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond (TQ1748 6947) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nick Jarvis of Moorland Homes Ltd, Florence House, High Street, Ripley, Surrey.

The London Borough of Richmond has granted planning permission on appeal (00/2485/FUL and 002851/CAC) for the demolition of the existing structures on the site and the erection of eight business units arranged around the perimeter of the site. The permission is subject to a condition relating to archaeology (8). In order to mitigate the impact that such a programme of works could have on any underlying archaeology, a field evaluation was required to gain sufficient information about the archaeological potential of the site.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Mark Stevenson, of Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Stephen Hammond and Clare Challis on the 21st–22nd February 2002, and the site code issued by the Museum of London is SNT02. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies on a c. 864 sq m parcel of land on the east side of St John's Road, Hampton Wick on the west Bank of the river Thames (Fig. 2). The site lies at an approximate height of 9m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is river terrace gravel and/or alluvium as shown on the geological map for the area (BGS 1981). The actual geology observed in the trenches confirmed the presence of river gravel. Currently the shell of a former workshop occupies the site with some roof supports and internal walls in place.

Archaeological background

There are several factors that have could contribute to archaeological potential for the site. The site itself lies on the gravel terrace close to the river Thames, which is a location favoured for both prehistoric and later occupation (MoLAS 2000). The site is also close to or within the historic core of Hampton Wick, a settlement which lies at the western end of Kingston Bridge and may well have originated in later Saxon times. A recent archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of the White Hart public house, an area of land that backs onto the proposal area, located a pit containing 16th–18th century pottery (Cowie 2000) but a subsequent watching brief failed to locate additional deposits (Casson 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. Specific aims of the evaluation were, first, to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived given that the site area had been previously developed and, second, to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present especially those of a late Saxon or medieval date. This was to be achieved by digging a total of three trenches, each 1.6m wide and 7m long, representing 4% of the site area. The potential and significance of any such deposits would be assessed according to research priorities such as those set out in *Exploring Our Past* (English Heritage 1991, 36) and *English Heritage Research Agenda* (English Heritage 1997, 44) or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary.

A JCB-type machine was to be employed to dig the three trenches with a breaker to remove the modern concrete ground slab. The trenches were to be dug with a toothless ditching bucket All machine digging was carried out under the direct supervision of an experienced and qualified archaeologist. Spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

Three trenches were dug ranging in length from 6.65m to 8.05m each with a breadth of 1.6m (Fig. 3). The trenches were placed as close as possible to the positions intended given the restrictions presented by the standing structures on the site. The trenches were hand cleaned and any potential features were cleaned further before being hand excavated. All spoil heaps were monitored for stray finds. A list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

Trench 1 was dug to a depth of 1.20m and was 6.65 metres long. The stratigraphy (Fig. 4 and Plate 2) consisted of 0.10m of concrete over 0.19m of a grey/brown loamy made ground with occasional tile and brick fragments. In turn this overlay 0.07m layer of black, compacted charcoal/coal. Below this was a compacted chalky layer 0.05m thick that covered a compacted bright orange sandy/clay gravel 0.10m thick. This was found above 0.28m of brown/orange sandy silt with very occasional brick and tile fragments and charcoal flecking. The natural was found at a depth of 1.07m and consisted of a brown/orange silty sand with occasional gravel.

No features or artefacts were found relating to this trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was dug to a depth of 1.30m and was 7.30m in length. The section revealed 0.13m of concrete above 0.18m of grey loam with occasional brick fragments. Below this 0.06m of white compacted chalk overlaid a coal/charcoal layer with occasional sandy silt and gravel inclusions 0.13m thick. This was found above a made ground layer consisting of a brick and concrete mix 0.19m thick. Below this was a grey/brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions 0.39m thick. The natural was found at a depth of 1.08m and consisted of silty sand with occasional gravel.

A late post-medieval pit with round or oval plan was observed cutting the natural between 3.20 and 4.30m from the south of the trench, extending into the south-east facing section, with 0.48m of the diameter exposed in the trench. This was hand excavated and was revealed to be 0.12m deep, containing small pieces of brick, tile and coal fragments. These finds were not retained.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was dug to depth of 1.20m and was 8.05m long. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of concrete above a black charcoal/coal layer with very occasional brick fragments 0.20m thick. This overlay a white compacted chalk layer with occasional sub angular flint inclusions. Below this was 0.05m of compacted charcoal/coal with occasional slag inclusions. This was above a compacted yellow/brown sandy silt layer with frequent sub angular flint inclusions 0.05m thick. This in turn overlaid a second compacted charcoal/coal layer with frequent slag inclusions. Below this was observed a mid yellow/brown compacted sandy silt with frequent sub angular flint inclusions. A third charcoal/coal layer 0.03m thick could be seen beneath which also contained occasional pieces of angular flint. In turn this covered a brown/orange sandy silt with frequent brick inclusions, especially in the

south-west facing section. Occasional to moderate flint gravel was also observed. Below this 0.22m of orange/brown silty sand with occasional flint gravel could be seen. The natural was found at a depth of 1.08m and consisted of brown/orange silt sand with very occasional flint gravel.

No features or artefact were found relating to this trench.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found other than a Victorian (or later) pit and other modern material. The stratigraphy of all trenches showed relatively modern layers present directly above the natural gravel. It was not clear to what extent, if any, truncation of the natural gravel had taken place prior to burial by modern deposits. However, the lack of finds or deposits of archaeological interest indicates that this particular site has no archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Casson, L, 2001, White Hart Lane Public House, 1 High Street, Hampton Wick, Richmond on Thames, Archaeological watching brief, Museum of London Archaeological Service, London
- Cowie, R, 2000, White Hart Lane Public House, 1 High Street, Hampton Wick, Richmond on Thames, Archaeological evaluation, Museum of London Archaeological Service, London
- English Heritage 1997, Research Agenda (Draft), Archaeology Division, English Heritage, London
- 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 NW end on Trenches 1 and 3 and SW end on Trench 2

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	6.65	1.20	<p>0-0.10m concrete 0.10-0.29m grey/brown loam with occasional brick and tile fragments. 0.29-0.36m black charcoal/coal layer 0.36-0.41m white compacted chalk layer 0.41-0.69m yellow/brown sandy gravel with very occasional brick fragments and charcoal flecking 0.69-0.79m mid orange sandy/clay/gravel 0.79-1.07 mid brown/orange sandy silt. Very occasional brick and tile fragments and charcoal flecking 1.07m+ natural brown orange silty sand with occasional gravel. Trenched bottomed at 7.84m AOD (NW), 7.80m AOD (SE)</p>
2	7.30	1.30	<p>0-0.13m concrete 0.13-0.31m dark grey loam with occasional chalk and brick inclusions 0.31-0.37m white compacted chalk 0.37-0.50m dark grey/black charcoal/coal layer with occasional flint gravel 0.50-0.69m mixed brick and concrete made ground 0.69-0.96m grey/brown/orange sandy silt 0.96m+ natural brown/orange silty sand with occasional gravel Late post-medieval pit found running into the NE facing section between 3.20m and 4.30m with 0.48m exposed into the trench. Trench bottomed at 7.66m AOD (NE), 7.84m AOD (SW)</p>
3	8.05	1.20	<p>0-0.15m concrete 0.15m-0.35m black charcoal/coal layer 0.35-0.39m white compacted chalk layer with occasional angular flint 0.39-0.44m dark grey/brown/black charcoal/coal layer with occasional slag inclusions. 0.44-0.49m mid yellow/brown compacted sandy silt with frequent sub angular flint inclusions 0.49-0.59m purple/black charcoal/coal layer with frequent slag pieces 0.59-0.64m mid yellow/brown compacted sandy silt with frequent sub angular flint inclusions 0.64-0.67m loose black charcoal/coal layer with occasional angular flint 0.67-0.86m pink/brown/orange sandy silt with frequent brick inclusions especially in the SW facing section 0.86-1.08m orange/brown silty sand with occasional flint gravel 1.08m + natural brown/orange silty sand with very occasional flint gravel. Trench bottomed at 7.75m AOD (NW), 7.81m AOD (SE)</p>

Appendix 2: GLSMR/RCHME NAR Archaeological Report Form

1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

2. LOCATION

Borough: Richmond

Address: 13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond

Name: 13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond

Site Code: SNT 02

National Grid Refs: TQ17486947

Centre of site: TQ17486947

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit: Thames Valley Archaeological Services

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

Site director/supervisor: Stephen Hammond

Project manager: Steve Ford

Funded by: Moorland Homes Ltd

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 21/02/02

Date finished: 22/02/02

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: (Victorian or later) Yes

Iron Age: -

Unknown: -

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

Post-Medieval: 19th/20th century brick, tile and coal within pit. Modern underground services encountered within all trenches.

7. NATURAL -

Type: Loose silty sand with occasional flint gravel.

Height above Ordnance Datum: 7.84 m

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): All

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

c) Approximate. year of transfer: unknown

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hammond, S, 2002, 13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick. London Borough of Richmond, Archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 02/15, Reading

SIGNED:

DATE: 26th February 2002

NAME

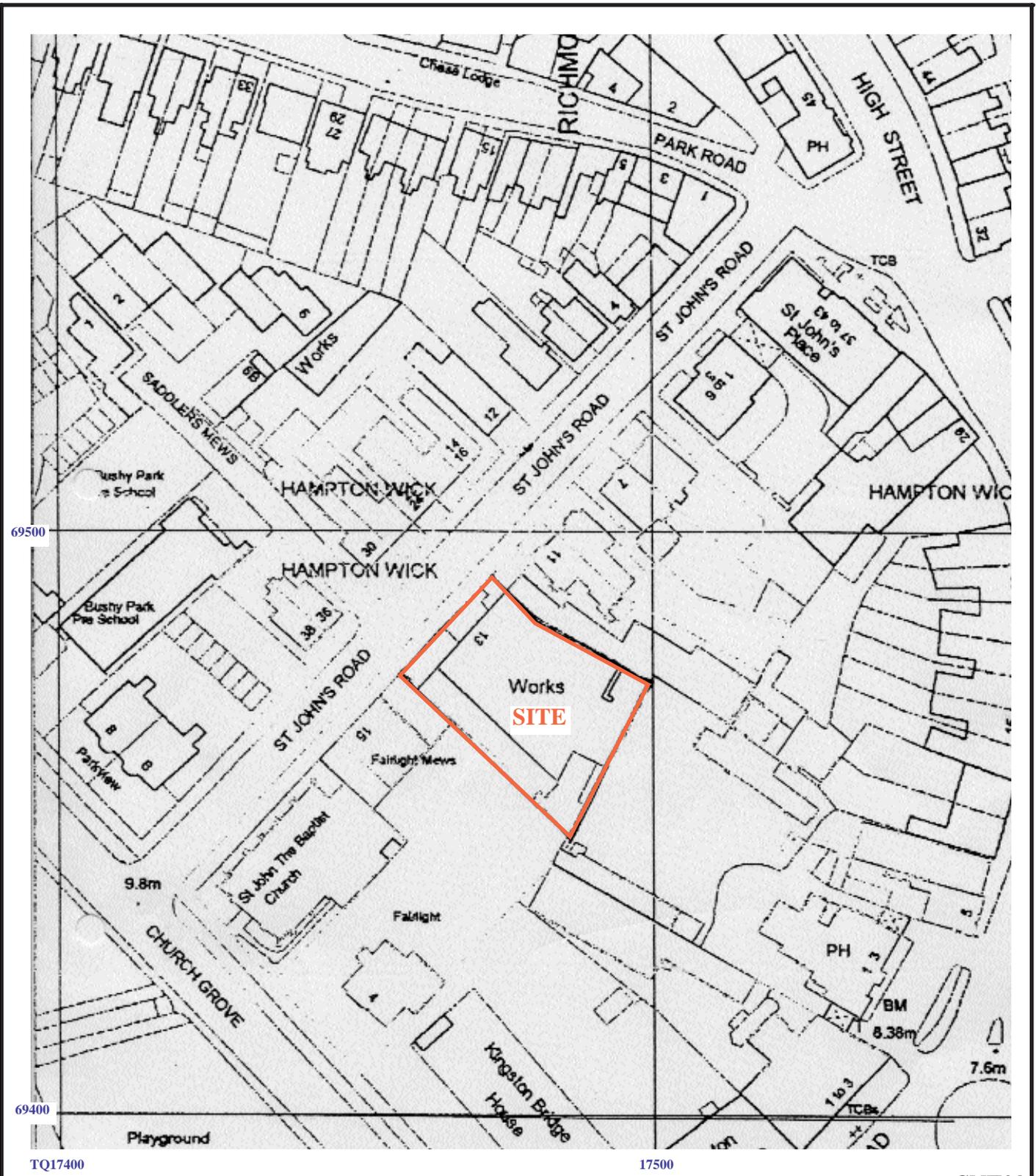


**13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick, London
Borough of Richmond**

Figure 1. Location of site within Hampton Wick and Greater London.

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THAMES VALLEY
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SNT02

13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick, London
Borough of Richmond

Figure 2. Location of site within Hampton Wick on
St John's Road

T H A M E S V A L L E Y
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 S E R V I C E S

13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond

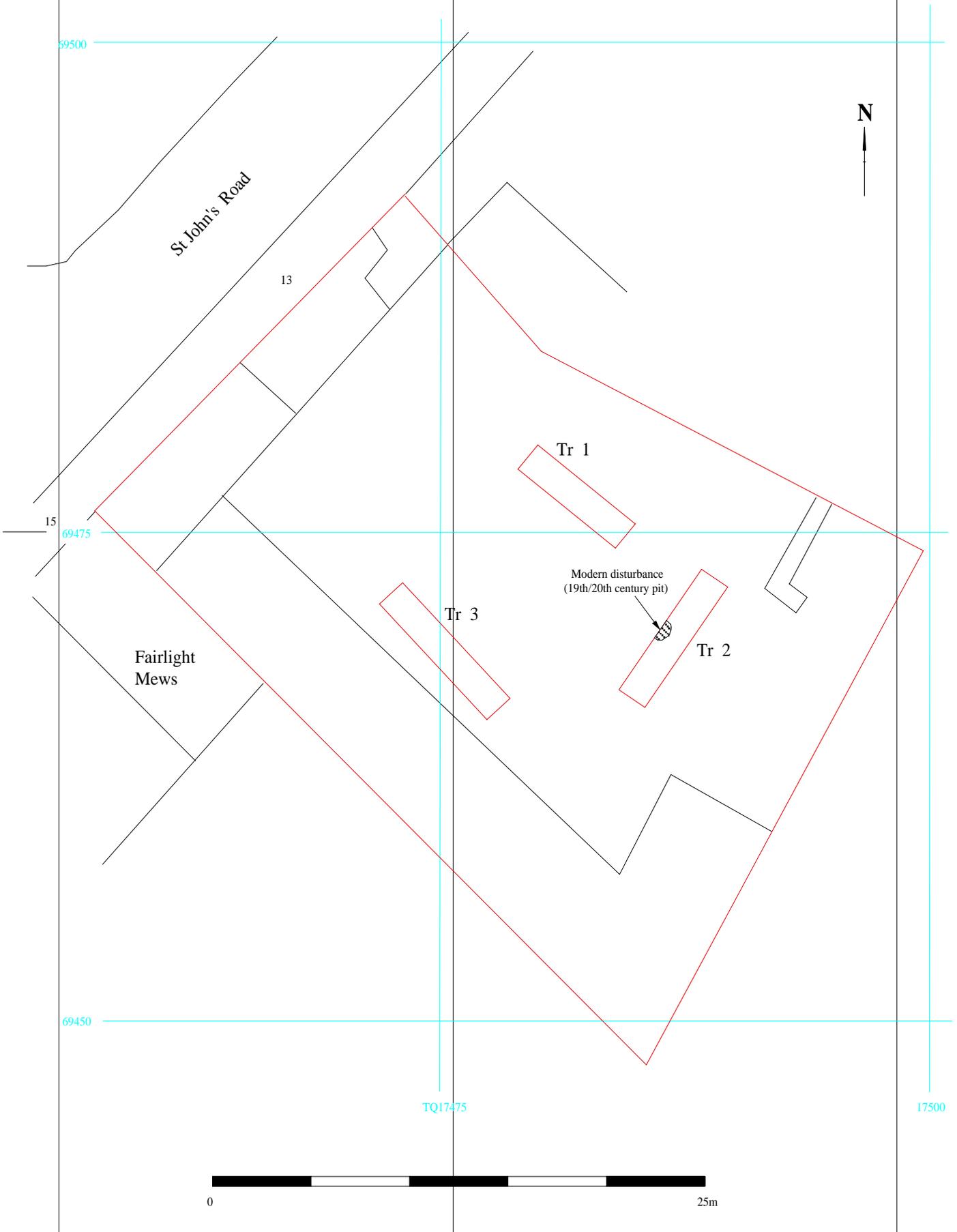


Figure 3. Layout of trenches

13 St John's Road, Hampton Wick, London Borough of Richmond

Trench 1

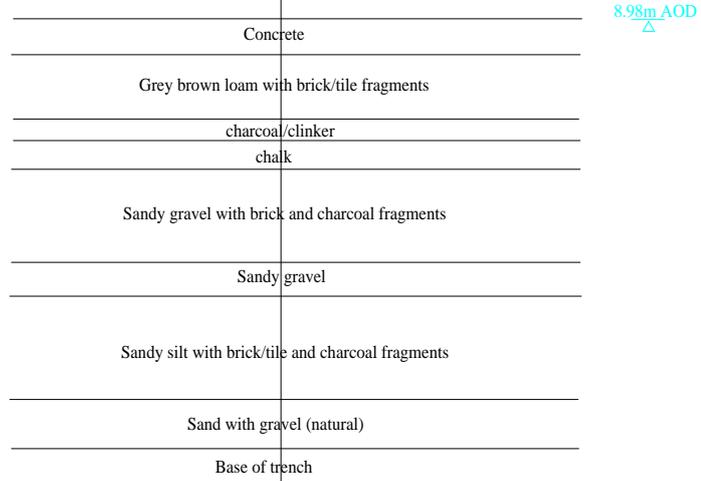


Figure 4. Representative section.



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north west. Scales: 2m and 1m

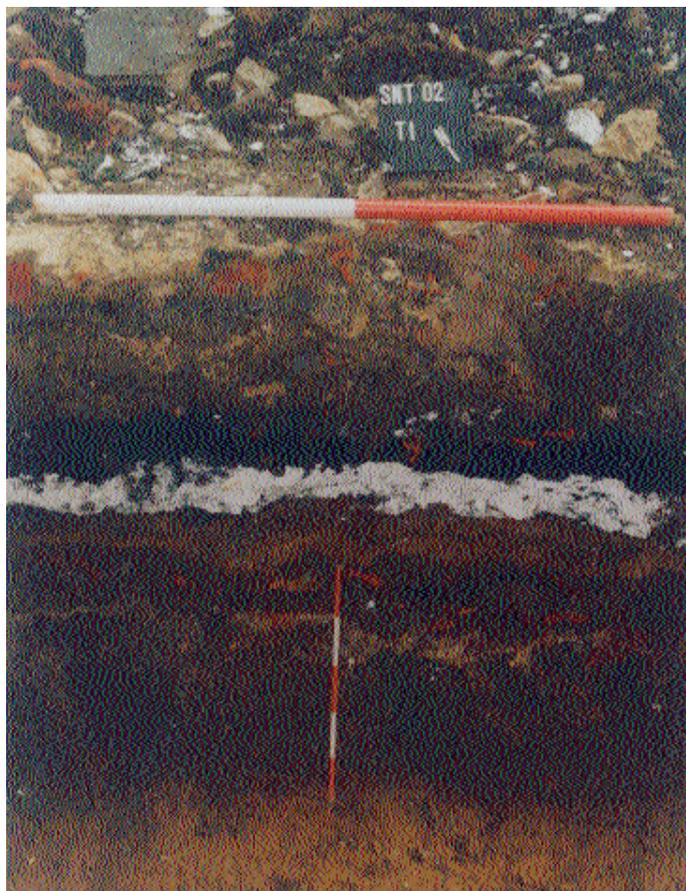


Plate 2. Trench 1 Section looking north east. Scales: 1m and 0.5m