

# Drainage Trenching Kenwood House Hampstead Lane London



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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# New Drainage Trenches, Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, London

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## SUMMARY

*In January 2009 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, London (NGR: TQ 271 874). The work was commissioned English Heritage in advance of the excavation of new drainage trenches. The watching brief revealed deposits of made ground composed of demolition material and the base of a late 18th-century wall running parallel to the west wall of the house. No other significant archaeology was observed.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between November 17th and 22nd 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, London (NGR: TQ 271 874). The work was commissioned by English Heritage in respect of proposed reroofing work which would include the excavation of associated drainage works.
- 1.1.2 Because of the potential of disturbing archaeological deposits during the excavation of the trenches English Heritage (EH) specified that an archaeological watching brief be conducted during the period of groundworks.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2008).

#### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Kenwood House is a Grade I listed building set in a 112 acre estate at the northern edge of Hampstead Heath in the north London borough of Camden (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The site lies at c. 110 m OD and the underlying geology comprises Bagshot Beds, overlying Claygate Beds, which in turn overlies the London Clay.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared using a SMR search provided by the GLSMR of sites within a 500 m radius, centred on the site's location, and a summary of this search is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The house was built in 1616 by John Bull, the King's printer, and then rebuilt in the 17th century by William Bridges, Surveyor General of the Ordnance. The house was remodelled between 1764 and 1779 by Robert and James Adam for the 1st Earl of Mansfield who bought the house in 1754. After the death of the 1st Earl of Mansfield in 1793 the house was inherited by his nephew the 2nd Earl of Mansfield.

- 1.3.3 The 2nd Earl implemented an extensive phase of remodelling of the house and estate and employed the architect George Saunders and landscape architect Humphry Repton. Further smaller alterations were carried out by William Atkinson from 1811 to 1840 for the 3rd Earl of Mansfield. The house and estate remained in the Mansfield family until 1925.
- 1.3.4 The trustees of the Iveagh Bequest, following the wishes of Edward Cecil Guinness, 1st Earl of Iveagh to leave the house to the nation, opened the house to the public in 1928. In 1986 English Heritage became the administrative trustees (EH 2003).
- 1.3.5 During 1998 and 2001 English Heritage carried out an archaeological watching brief during service trenching around the house and revealed a number of walls and drains from the 17th to 19th century along with 18th century re-landscaping and garden features. These archaeological features and deposits had survived in excellent condition (EH 2003).

## **2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims**

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development. In particular specific attention will be paid to the location of 17th-and early 18th-century phases of construction and use of Kenwood House.
- 2.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

### **2.2 Methodology**

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was conducted as a continuous archaeological presence during any works likely to damage, disturb or remove archaeological deposits. These works included the reduction of the ground level within the site and the excavation of the building foundations.
- 2.2.2 A plan of all excavations was maintained at a scale of 1:100 (Figs. 2 and 3) and any sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 (Fig. 3). The sections and the excavations were photographed using digital photography, colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Description of deposits

##### *Area 1 adjacent to the west wing of the house*

- 3.1.1 These excavations consisted of approximately 7 m length of 0.35 m wide trench dug to a maximum depth of 0.48 m within the paved area adjacent to the north-west corner of the west wing (Figs. 2 and 3)
- 3.1.2 A brick wall (4) composed of red hand made bricks measuring 0.225 m x 0.102 m x 0.062 m was encountered at a depth of 0.35 m below the current ground level (Fig. 3, Section 1). This was aligned south-east to north-west and ran parallel to the west wall of the house. Partially bonded to the wall at its southern end was a layer of lime mortar and slate (5), the remnants of a probable damp proof layer. The presence of the damp proof course suggests that this wall was structural (ie part of a building) rather than forming part of a boundary or ornamental wall such as a balustrade.
- 3.1.3 This was overlaid by a layer of demolition debris, crushed bricks etc (3), in excess of 0.4 m deep. Sealing this deposit was a 0.08 m deep layer of sandy clay silt (2), forming a bed for the stone slabs running alongside the wing (1).

##### *Area 2, adjacent to south-west corner of the house.*

- 3.1.4 These excavations consisted of trenching measuring approximately 1.3 m square located adjacent to the paved area against the south-west corner of the house (Fig. 2). These works were conducted in order to connect to new drains to the existing system.
- 3.1.5 An overall layer of made ground composed of demolition rubble and domestic refuse including butchered bone, oyster shell and post-medieval pottery (8), was encountered at a depth of 0.2 m below the current ground level (Fig. 3, Section 2). This was sealed by a layer of small hardcore (7) 0.1 m deep forming a levelling layer for the tarmac surface (6).

#### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 The only finds recovered during the course of the watching brief were post-medieval in date (18th century) and included fragments of brick and tile and fragments of blue and white painted ceramics (“Willow Pattern”) from within layers 3 and 8. These were evaluated on site but were not retained.

#### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for paleo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

#### 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The excavations exposed deposits of made ground (Layers 3 and 8) running alongside the west wing and south-west corner of the house. The dating evidence recovered from these deposits suggest a late 18th/early 19th century date. This would correspond with the demolition of the three walled courtyards sited around the front of the house and the demolition of the service prior to the construction of the current west wing by the architects Saunders and Repton between 1793 and 1796. The demolition debris observed within these deposits may have originated from these walled courtyards and the demolition of the service wing.
- 4.1.2 As has been previously noted Wall 4 was probably structural due to the presence of the damp proof course (5). Its location and alignment closely approximates that of the east wall of the service wing shown on the plan of the estate and house prior to remodelling in Repton's "Red Book" of Kenwood drawn in 1793 (EH, 2003, Fig. 3). The brick size used within wall 4 suggests an 18th-century date and it may have originated with the remodelling of the house between 1764 and 1779.
- 4.1.3 Layer 8 is probably also part of the same phase of remodelling as layer 3. The gravel layer 7 may possibly be the original driveway surface before being sealed by the modern tarmac surface 6.

**APPENDICES****APPENDIX 1    ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Surface	0.08 m	Area of stone slabs	-	C18th
2	Layer	0.1 m	Sand, bedding for the paved area 1	-	C18th
3	Layer	> 0.4 m	Made ground	Brick	C18th
4	Wall	> 0.2 m	Brick wall running parallel to west wing of house	Brick	C18th
5	Layer	0.02 m	Remains of damp proof course	Slate	C18th
6	Surface	0.1 m	Tarmac path/driveway	-	C20th
7	Layer	0.1 m	Gravel bed for surface 6	-	C20th
8	Layer	> 0.3 m	Made ground, same phase of work as layer 3	Brick, bone, pottery	C18th

**APPENDIX 2    BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES**

EH 2003 *Report 1/2003 Fieldwork report: Evaluation of service trench excavations within the Kenwood House Estate* by David Fellows

IFA 2001 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

OA 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson)

OA 2000 *OA Environmental Guidelines for sampling (first edition, July 2000)*

OA 2008 *Reroofing of the West Wing of Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, London: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



**APPENDIX 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM**

## 1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation, Excavation, **Watching Brief**, Building Recording, Survey,  
Geoarchaeological Evaluation, Fieldwalking, Other

## 2) LOCATION

Borough: Camden

Site address: Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, London

Site Name: Reroofing of the West Wing of Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, London

Site Code: KDO 09

Nat. grid Refs:                   centre of site: TQ 2707 8732

Limits of site: N   TQ 2707 8744                   S   TQ 2707 8740

                          E   TQ 2709 8732                   W   TQ 2705 8732

## 3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: Oxford Archaeology

Address: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES

Site director/supervisor: Mike Sims      Project manager: Dan Dodds

Funded by: English Heritage

## 4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started 23rd January 2009      Date finished: 23rd January 2009

Fieldwork previously notified?                   YES/NO

Fieldwork will continue?                        YES/NO/NOT KNOWN

## 5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon (pre-AD 1066),

Medieval (AD 1066-1485), **Post-Medieval**, Unknown

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES 18th deposits associated with the remodelling of the house in  
that period

## 7) NATURAL

Type: Bagshot Beds overlying Claygate Beds

Height above Ordnance datum: 109 m

## 8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

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

NOtes x3	PLans x2	PHotos	Ngatives x12
SLides x12	COrrrespondence	MScRipts (unpub reports, etc)	
BULK finds	SMall finds	SOil samples	
OTHer			

- b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location:
- c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: NO

## 10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

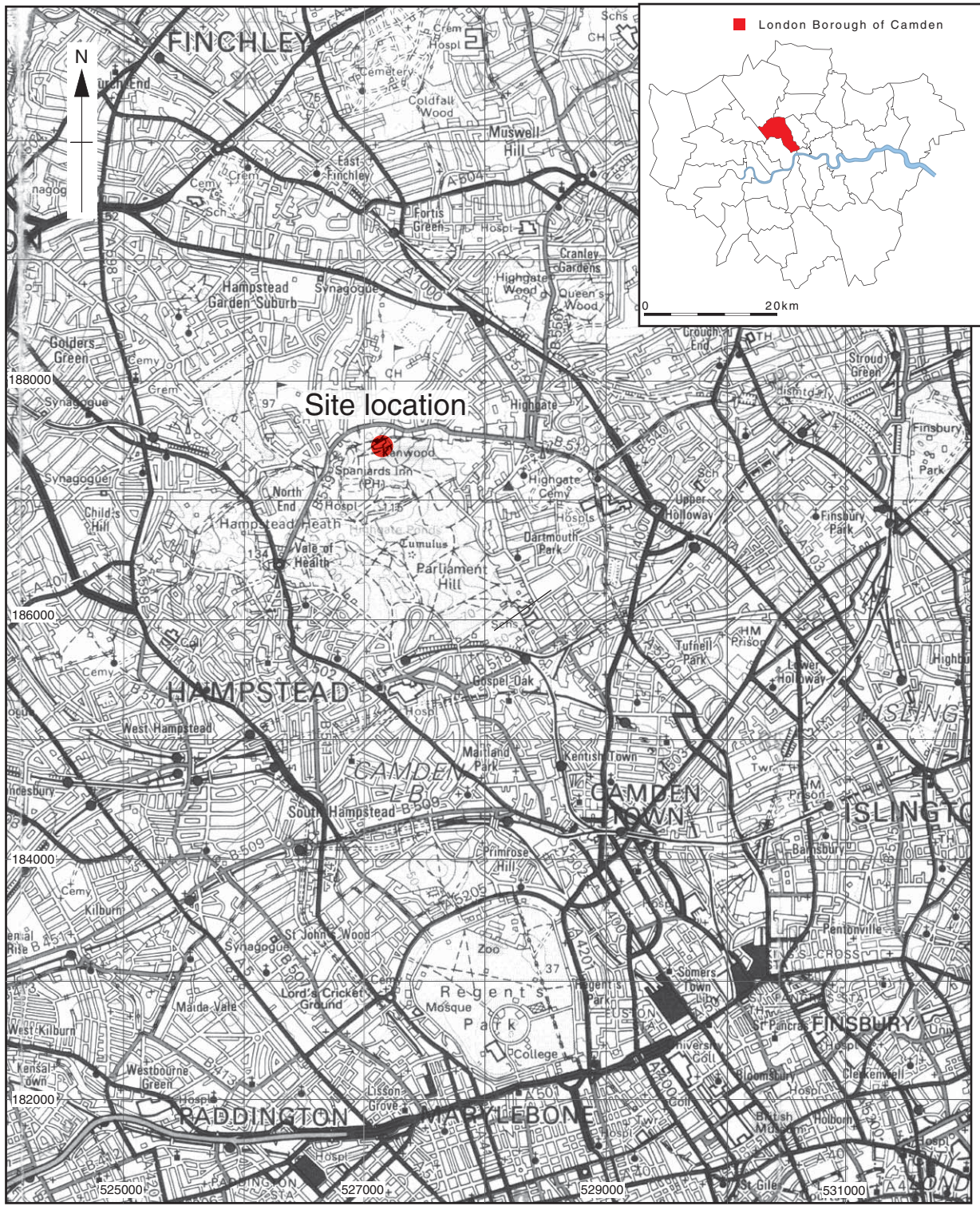
**SEE**

Appendix 2 Bibliography and references

SIGNED:

DATE:

NAME :



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

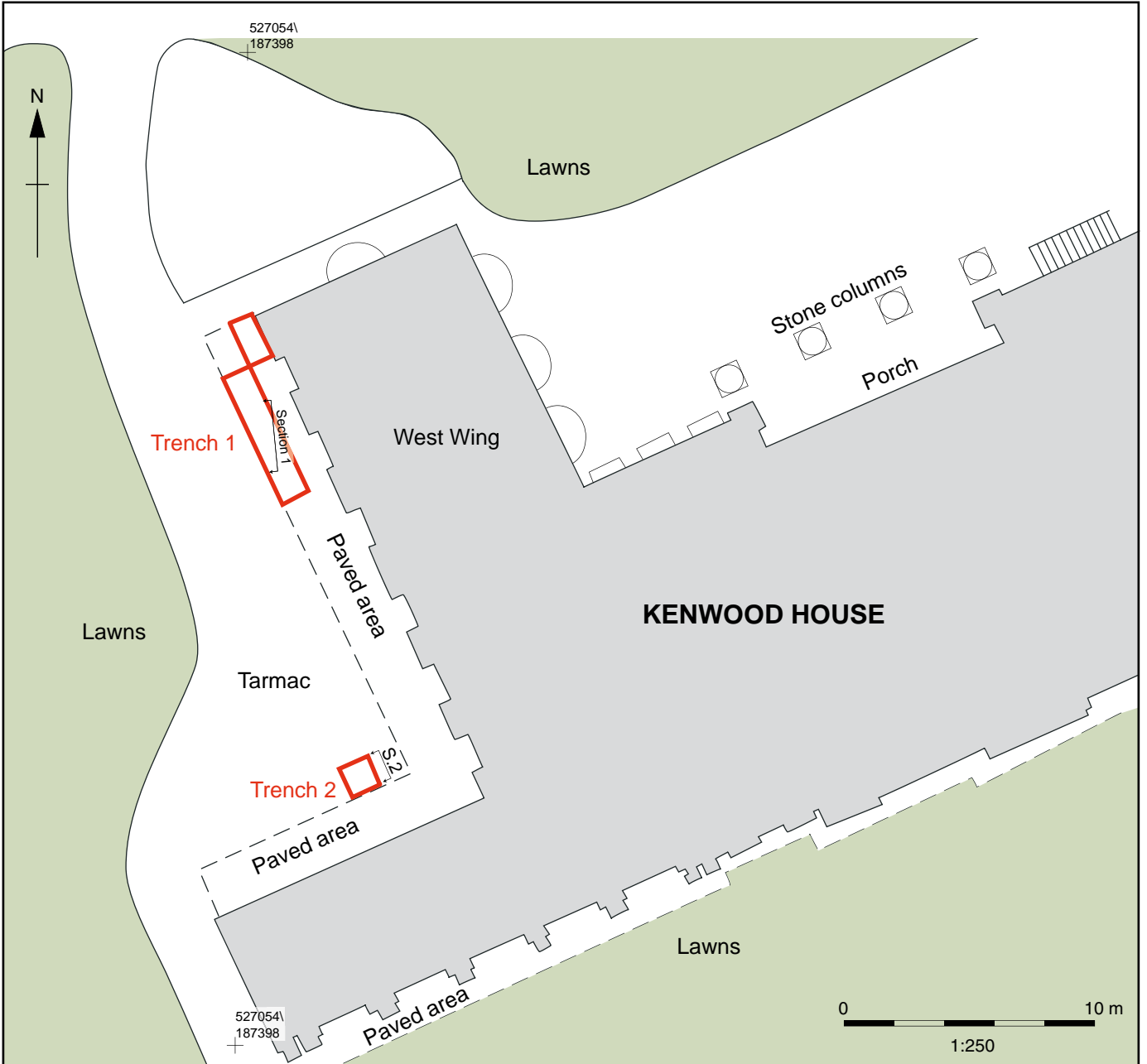


Figure 2: Site plan

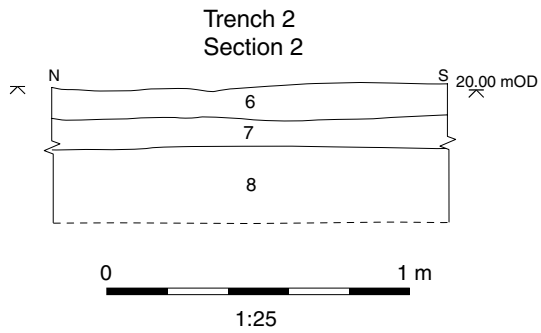
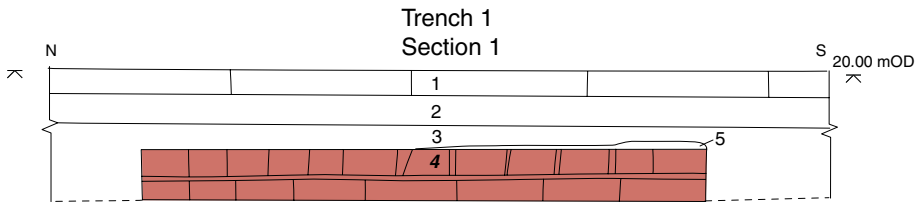
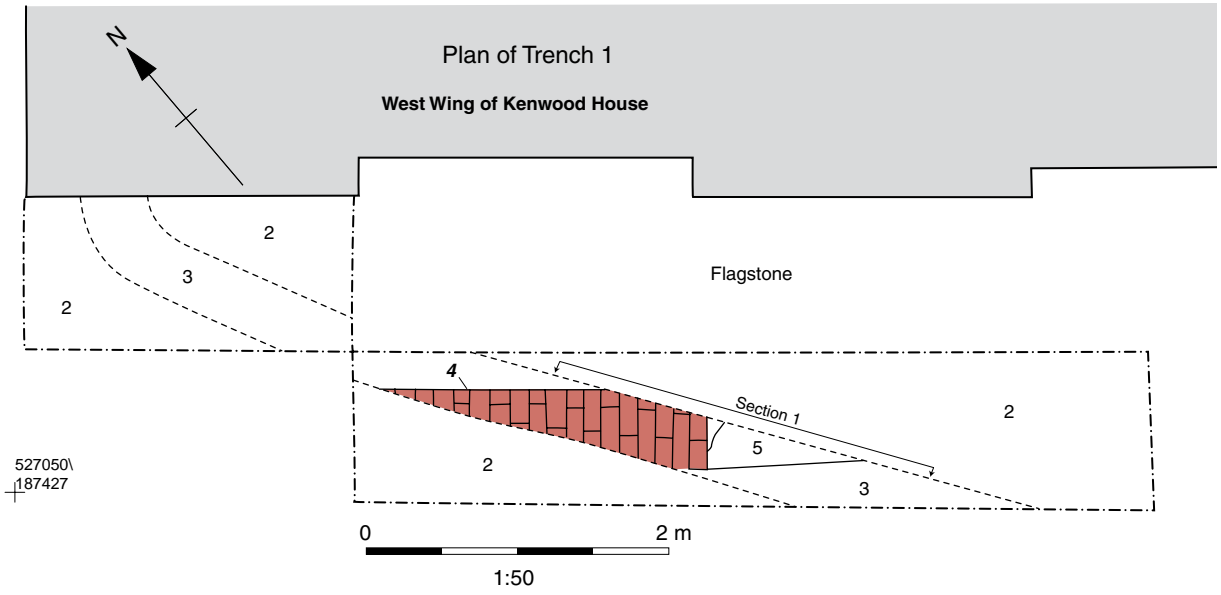






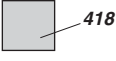








Figure 3: Plan and sections

	Section line and number
	Section through feature not illustrated with section drawing
	Limit of excavation
	Sondage / Interior limit of excavation
	Fill line and number
	Cut line and number
	Structure number
	Unclear boundary
	Stones
	Hachures indicate inclination of slope inside excavated feature
	Levels
	Grid point
	Continuation line (trench edge continues)



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