

St. Michael's and All Angels
with St James Church
Poplar Walk
Croydon
London



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

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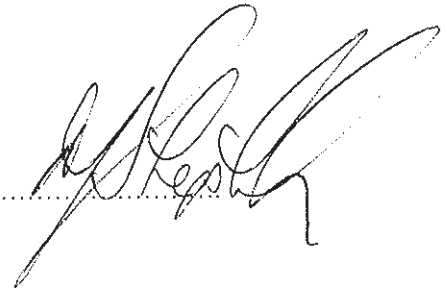
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St Michael's and All Angels with St James Church, Poplar Walk, Croydon, Surrey

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Location and scope of work	1
1.2 Geology and topography	1
2 Archaeological and Historical Background	1
3 Evaluation Aims	2
4 Evaluation Methodology	2
4.1 Scope of fieldwork	2
4.2 Fieldwork methods and recording	2
4.3 Finds	2
4.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence.....	2
4.5 Presentation of results	3
5 Results: General.....	3
5.1 Soils and ground conditions	3
6 Results: Descriptions.....	3
6.1 Description of deposits.....	3
7 Discussion and Interpretation.....	5
7.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	5
7.2 Overall interpretation	5
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	6
Appendix 2 References	8
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	8

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Trench location Plan
- Fig. 3 Trench 1, Plan and Sections
- Fig. 4 Trench 2, Plan and Section
- Fig. 5 Trench 3, Plan and Section
- Fig. 6 Trench 5, Plan and Section
- Fig. 7 Trenches 4, 6, and 7, Sample Sections

SUMMARY

From 15th to 17th of March 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at St. Michael's and All Angels with St James Church, Poplar Walk, Croydon, Surrey (NGR TQ 322 661) on behalf of Carden and Godfrey Architects. The evaluation revealed the remains of the vicarage built in 1904 and demolished in 1982. No archaeological features or deposits were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between 15th and 17th of March 2004 OA carried out a field evaluation at St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Poplar Walk, Croydon, Surrey on behalf of Carden and Godfrey Architects in respect of a planning application for redevelopment of the car park and part of the church yard to the north and west of St. Michael's and All Angels Church for use as a new Church Hall and Residential Buildings. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how Oxford Archaeology (OA) would implement archaeological work was set and agreed with Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (OA 2003).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The application site is located within the centre of Croydon (NGR TQ 322 661), roughly 100m from Croydon Station, at approximately 53 m OD. The underlying geology is 2nd level river terrace gravels over London clay. The site is located on level ground within both the church yard and the public car park.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has already been provided in the WSI (OA 2003) and is summarised below. The site has produced no known archaeological evidence.
- 2.1.2 Prior to the construction of the car park to the west of the Church the site was the location of the former church vicarage. The brick built vicarage was constructed in 1904 and later demolished in 1982.
- 2.1.3 Immediately to the east of the site is the church itself, of post-medieval construction. There is the possibility of encountering burials within the former burial ground of the church now part of the proposed development area.
- 2.1.4 Within Bedford Park, roughly 200 m to the east, a Roman coin was recovered (SMR 020225/00), while in Tamworth Road approximately 300 m to the south-west, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters were recorded (SMR 022260/00) together with fragments of Iron Age pottery (SMR 622261/00) and evidence of early (16-17th century) building development (SMR 022262/00).

- 2.1.5 In North End approximately 200 m to the south, there is evidence for a medieval Manor (SMR 020654/00) and later 17-18th century development including chalk and flint walls and a contemporary floor layer (SMR 020835/00).

3 EVALUATION AIMS

- 3.1.1 To establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, and in particular to establish the sequence of medieval and early post medieval development in this area of Croydon.
- 3.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 3.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation

4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The evaluation consisted of seven machine-excavated trenches each measuring 10 m long by 2 m wide (Fig.2). This equates to a 7.5% sample of the site. Four trenches were excavated inside the footprint of the proposed residential building within the car park area, west of St Michael's and All Angels Church. The remaining three trenches were excavated north-west of the church within the car park and church graveyard inside the footprint of the proposed church hall.

4.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 4.2.1 The car park surface and overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a JCB fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All the trenches and any archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 while sample sections and sections of excavated features were drawn at a scale of 1:20. The trenches, sections and features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the OA Fieldwork Manual (OAU 1992).

4.3 Finds

- 4.3.1 No finds were suitable for retention.

4.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 4.4.1 No deposits suitable for paleo-environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

4.5 Presentation of results

4.5.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below with the stratigraphic accounts of each trench described individually, followed by an overall discussion and interpretation.

5 RESULTS: GENERAL

5.1 Soils and ground conditions

5.1.1 The site was located on level ground, comprising modern tarmac, concrete and brick surfaces overlying buried soils and demolition rubble over natural within Trenches 1 to 5. Trenches 6 and 7 comprised garden soil overlying the natural. The boundaries of the layers and the edges of the cut features were well defined. Soils conditions were moist with no waterlogging.

6 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

6.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

6.1.1 In the eastern half of the trench river terrace gravel (107) was reached at a depth of 1.5 m below the existing car park surface. This was sealed by a 0.6 m deep layer of friable mid brown silty clay (106), a layer of buried top soil. Overlying this were two 0.1 m and 0.36 m thick lenses (104, 105) of redeposited topsoil. Sealing this layer was a 0.15 m deep deposit of building rubble (103). The modern gravel hardcore (102) and tarmac (101) car park surface was laid over this. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

6.1.2 Two walls (114 and 115) and a concrete floor (112) were located in the western half of the trench sealed beneath the modern gravel hardcore (102) and tarmac (101) car park surface. The walls were aligned north-south across the evaluation trench, 0.37 m high by 0.6 m thick and constructed from red frogged bricks measuring 225 mm x 110 mm x 70 mm. These were bonded with a lime mortar built as stretcher laid bricks. A 0.2 m thick concrete floor (112) was laid between the walls. The brick type and the concrete floor identifies this structure as part of the 20th century vicarage. The river terrace gravel (107) was reached at a depth of 1.2 m below the floor level.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

6.1.3 In the southern half of the trench river terrace gravel (206) was reached at a depth of 1.25 m below the existing car park surface. This was sealed by 1.05 m deep lenses of friable mid brown silty clay (203, 204, 205), layers of redeposited topsoil. The modern gravel hardcore (202) and tarmac (201) car park surface was laid over this. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

6.1.4 The remains of a cellar was located in the northern half of the trench sealed beneath the modern gravel hardcore (202) and tarmac (201) (see Figure 4). The cellar walls (208, 210) were aligned east-west across the evaluation trench measuring 2.85 m

high and 0.6 m thick, constructed from red frogged bricks measuring 225 mm x 110 mm x 70 mm bonded with a lime mortar built as stretcher laid bricks. The brick type and the concrete floor indicates that this cellar was part of the 20th century vicarage.

The cellar was filled by a 2.35 m deep deposit of building rubble, presumably from the demolition of the vicarage. This deposit overlay the concrete floor of the cellar (212).

Trench 3 (Fig.5)

- 6.1.5 The river terrace gravel (307) was reached at a depth of 1.2 m below the existing car park surface. Overlying the river terrace gravel was a 0.45 m deep layer of made ground comprising of friable dark brown silty sand (306). A layer of concrete (305, 304) sealed this deposit across the length of the trench. Built directly onto the concrete raft were two walls (309), (see Figure 5). They measured 0.4 m high and 0.26 m thick and had purpose built gaps at the bases to allow pipes and cables to pass underneath. The walls were constructed from the same bricks seen in Trenches 1, 2, and 5 indicating a further extension of the vicarage. Covering this was a 0.2 m deep layer of demolition rubble which was sealed beneath the modern gravel hardcore (302) and tarmac (301) car park surface.

Trench 4

- 6.1.6 The river terrace gravel (405) was reached in this area at a depth of 1.1 m below the existing car park surface. This was sealed by a 0.82 m deep layer of friable mid brown silty clay (404), a layer of buried top soil. Sealing this layer was a 0.3 m deep deposit of building rubble (403) from the demolished vicarage. The modern gravel hardcore (402) and tarmac (401) car park surface was laid over this. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 6)

- 6.1.7 The river terrace gravel (507) was encountered at a depth of 1.3 m below ground level. This was sealed by a 1.18 m deep deposit of mixed friable mid brown silty clay and building rubble representing the demolition of the vicarage (503, 504, 506, 507). The modern gravel hardcore (502) and tarmac surface (501) sealed this.
- 6.1.8 Located in the southern half of the trench was part of brick wall 508. The wall is constructed from the same red frogged brick as the vicarage and was probably part of an out building constructed at the same time as the vicarage. The wall was overlaid by building rubble and buried topsoil.

Trench 6

- 6.1.9 The Natural gravel (603) was encountered at 0.94 m below ground level. This was overlain by a 0.8 m friable mid brown silty clay (602), representing a worked garden soil which had been heavily disturbed by two modern service trenches. The trench was sealed by a layer of turf 0.14 m thick (601). No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Trench 7

6.1.10 As with Trench 6 the Natural gravel (703) was encountered at of 0.92 m below ground level. This was overlain by 0.81 m of friable mid brown silty clay (702), representing a worked garden soil which had been disturbed by a modern service trench. This was sealed by a layer of turf 0.11 m thick (701). No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

7 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

7.1 Reliability of field investigation

7.1.1 The percentage sample of the site, the location of the trenches and the consistent results from within these trenches gives a high confidence that the interpretation of the results will apply equally throughout the development site.

7.2 Overall interpretation

7.2.1 The evaluation produced no evidence of activity prior to the 20th century within the footprint of the proposed new developments.

7.2.2 The presence of brick walls and concrete floors within Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5 are the structural remains of the vicarage and its associated out-buildings built on the site in 1904. These buildings were demolished in 1982 to allow the construction of a car park; the demolition deposits sealing the structural remains attest to this demolition phase. No other archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1						
	101	Layer	-	Tarmac	-	C20th
	102	Layer	-	Hardcore	-	C20th
	103	Layer	0.12 m	Brick rubble	-	C20th
	104	layer	0.10 m	Made ground	-	-
	105	layer	0.37 m	Made ground	-	-
	106	layer	0.60 m	Buried soil	-	-
	107	layer	-	River terrace gravel	-	-
	108	layer	-	Hardcore	-	C20th
	109	Structure	-	Concrete floor level	-	C20th
	110	Structure	-	Concrete foundation	-	C20th
	111	layer	0.25 m	Made ground	-	-
	112	Structure	-	Concrete foundation	-	C20th
	113	layer	0.51 m	Made ground	-	-
	114	Structure	-	Exterior wall of vicarage	-	C20th
	115	Structure	-	Interior support wall of vicarage	-	C20th
	116	Layer	-	Concrete foundation	-	C20th
2						
	201	Layer	-	Tarmac surface	-	C20th
	202	Layer	-	Hardcore	-	C20th
	203	Layer	0.17 m	Made ground	-	-
	204	Layer	0.10 m	Made ground	-	-
	205	Layer	0.77 m	Made ground	-	-
	206	Layer	-	River terrace gravel	-	-
	207	Cut	-	Foundation cut of vicarage wall	-	C20th
	208	Structure	-	Vicarage wall	-	C20th
	209	Deposit	-	Backfill of foundation trench	-	-
	210	Structure	-	Wall of vicarage	-	C20th
	211	Layer	-	Building rubble	-	-

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
	212	Layer	-	Concrete basement floor	-	C20th
3						
	301	Layer	-	Tarmac surface	-	C20th
	302	Layer	-	Hardcore	-	-
	303	Layer	0.18 m	Building rubble	-	C20th
	304	Structure	-	Concrete	-	C20th
	305	Structure	-	Concrete	-	C20th
	306	Layer	0.48 m	Made ground	-	-
	307	Layer	-	River terrace gravel	-	-
	308	Structure	-	Concrete floor	-	C20th
	309	Structure	-	Interior wall of vicarage	-	C20th
4						
	401	Layer	-	Tarmac surface	-	C20th
	402	Layer	-	Hardcore	-	-
	403	Layer	0.30 m	Building rubble	-	C20th
	404	Layer	0.82 m	Made ground	-	-
	404	Layer	-	River terrace gravel	-	-
5						
	501	Layer	-	Tarmac surface	-	C20th
	502	Layer	-	Hardcore	-	-
	503	Layer	0.23 m	Made ground	-	-
	504	Layer	0.10 m	Made ground	-	-
	505	Layer	0.04 m	Gravel lens	-	-
	506	Layer	0.83 m	Made ground	-	-
	507	Layer	-	River terrace gravel	-	-
	508	Structure	-	Concrete	-	C20th
	509	Structure	-	Outbuilding wall	-	C20th
	510	Structure	-	Outbuilding wall	-	C20th
6						
	601	Layer	0.14 m	Turf	-	-
	602	Layer	0.80 m	Garden soil	-	-
	603	Layer	-	River terrace gravel	-	-

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
7						
	701	Layer	0.11 m	Turf	-	-
	702	Layer	0.81 m	Garden soil	-	-
	703	Layer	-	river terrace gravel	-	-

APPENDIX 2 REFERENCES

OA, 2003 St Michaels and All Angels With St James Church, Poplar Walk, Croydon, London - *Written Scheme of Investigation*

OAU, 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: St Michaels and All Angels With St James Church, Poplar Walk, Croydon, London

Site code: SOW 03

Grid reference: TQ 322 661

Type of evaluation: Seven machine excavated trenches

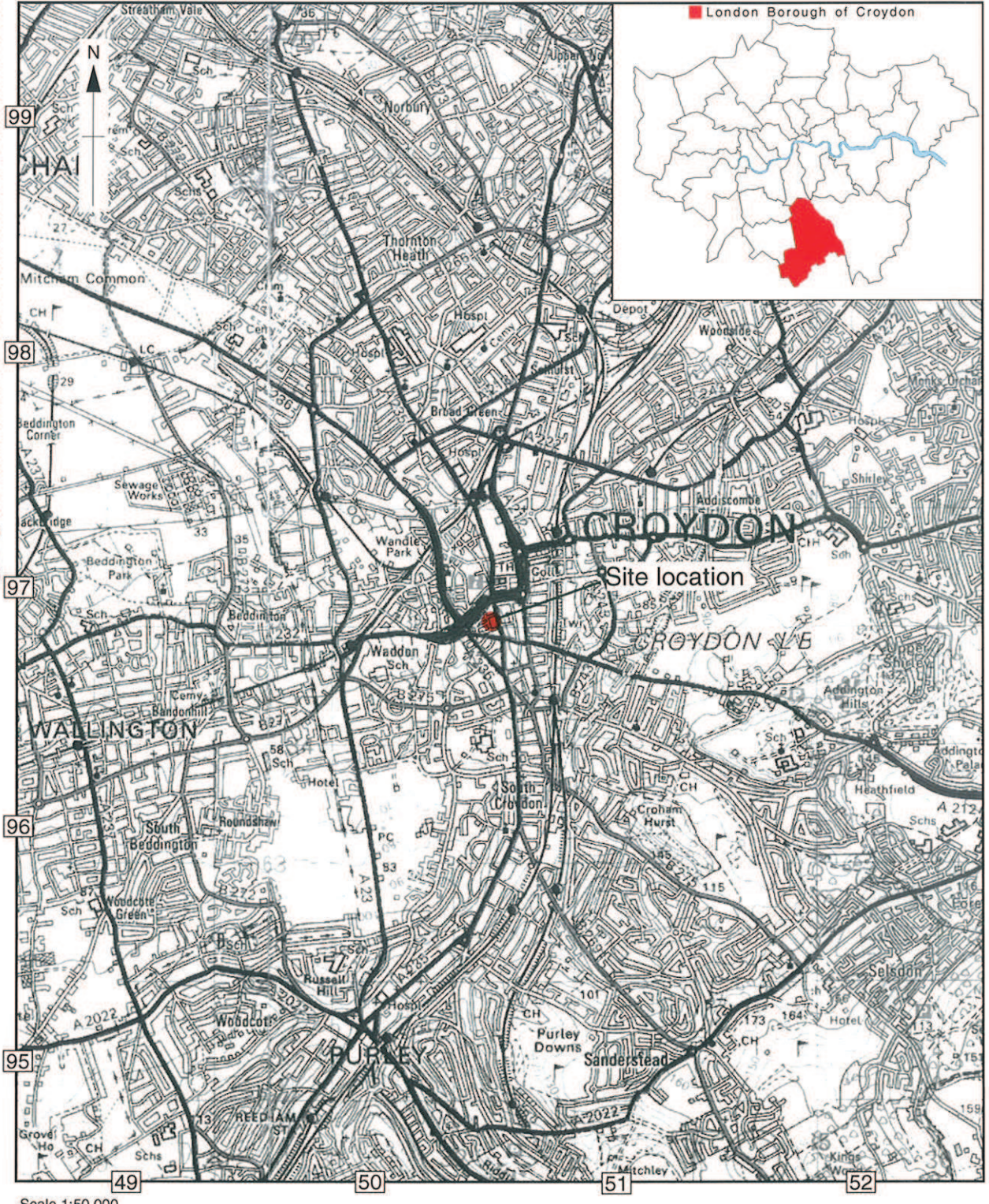
Date and duration of project: 15th to 17th of March 2004, 3 days

Area of site: 0.1 hectares

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed the structural remains of the vicarage constructed in 1902 and demolished in 1982. No other archaeology was found

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course.

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Figure 1: Site location

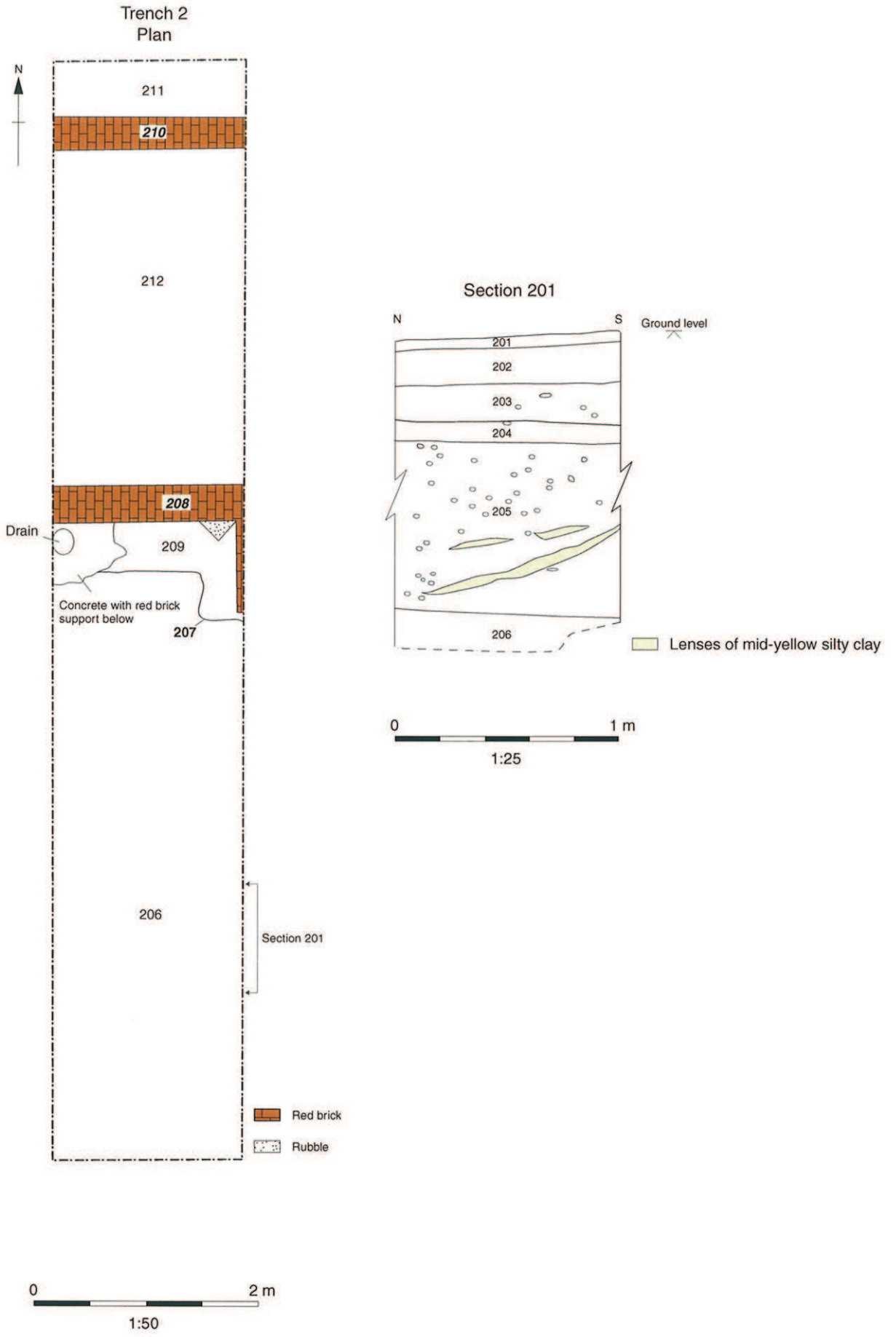


Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and section

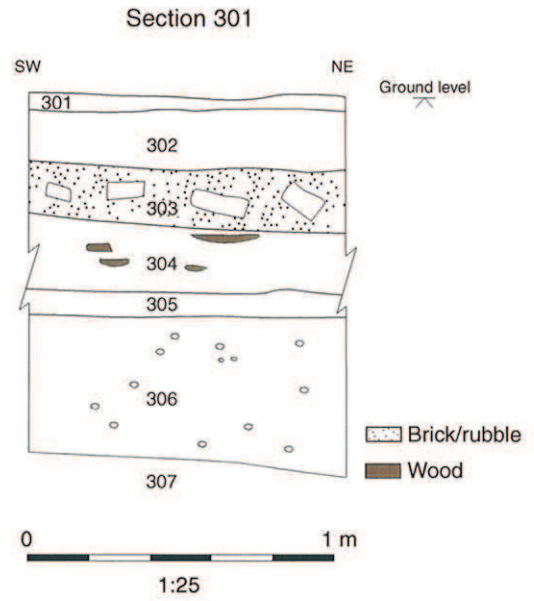
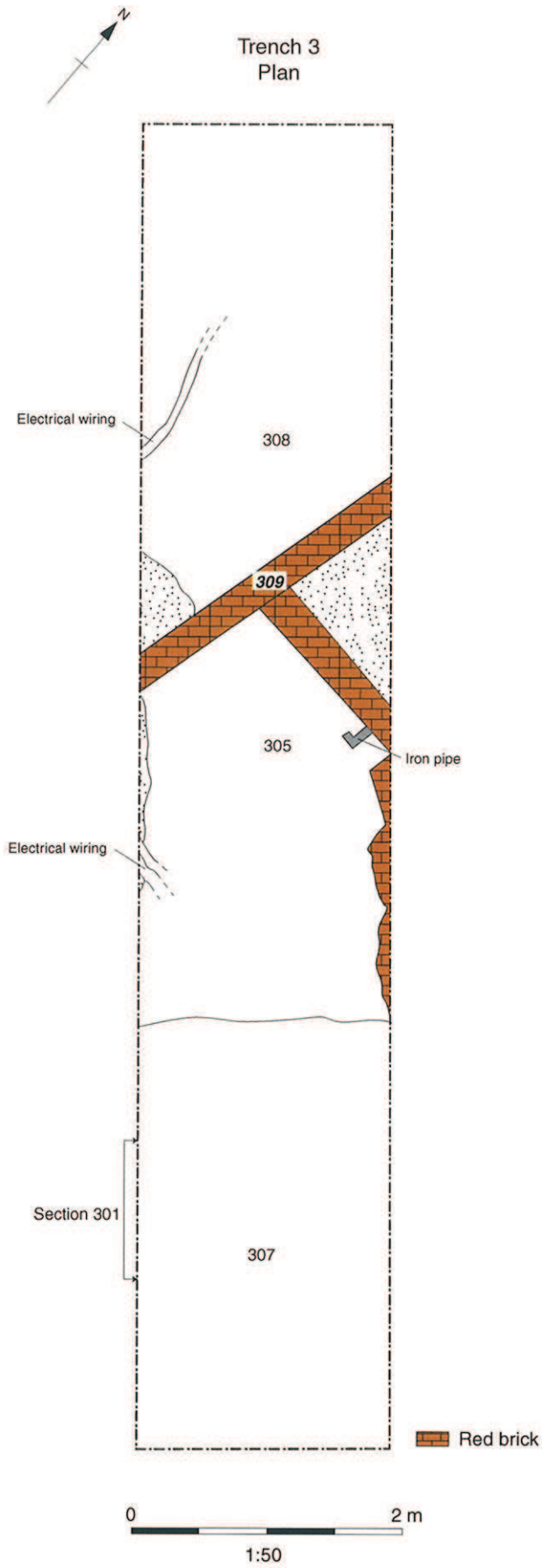


Figure5: Trench 3, plan and section

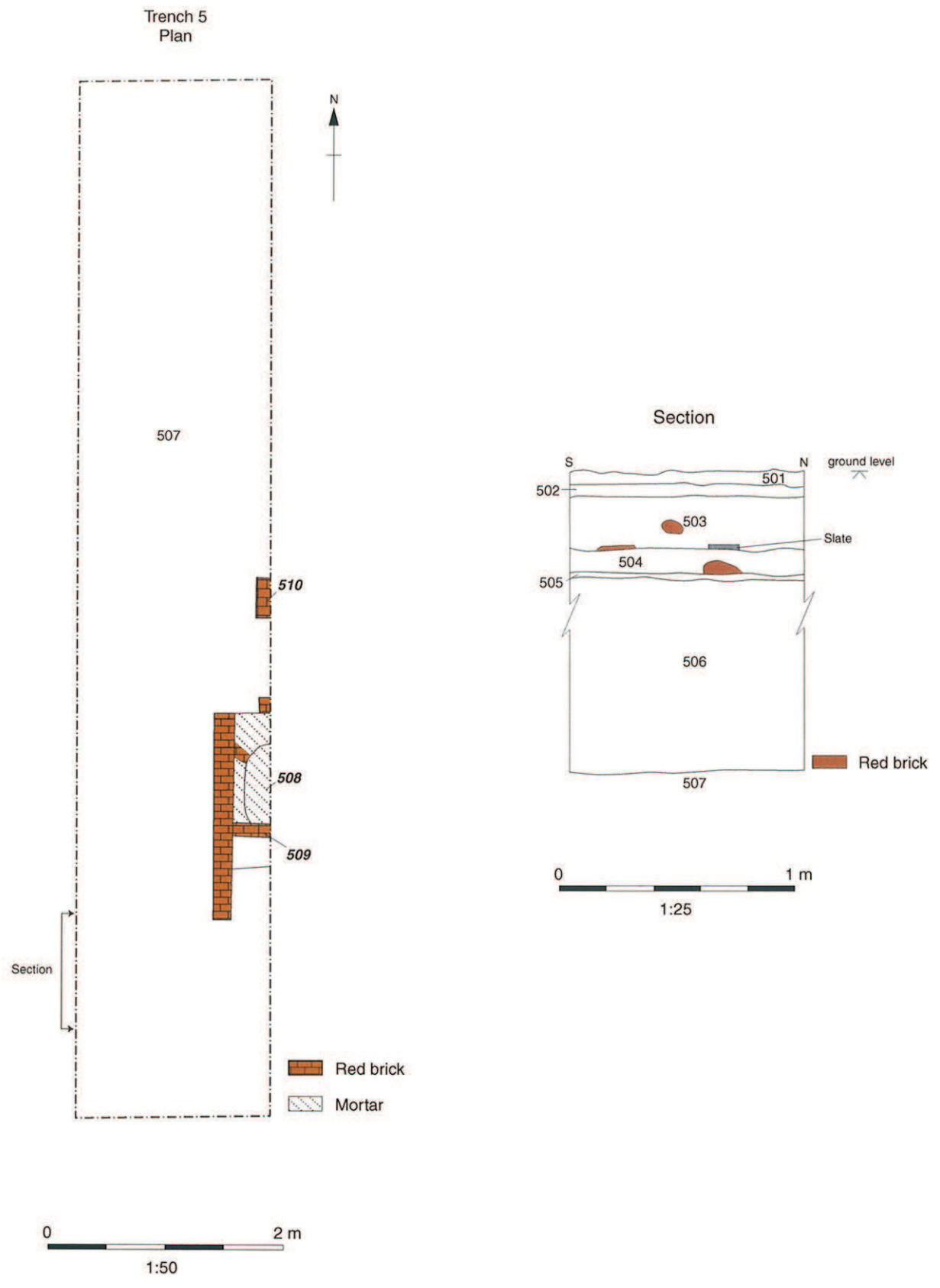


Figure 6: Trench 5, plan and section

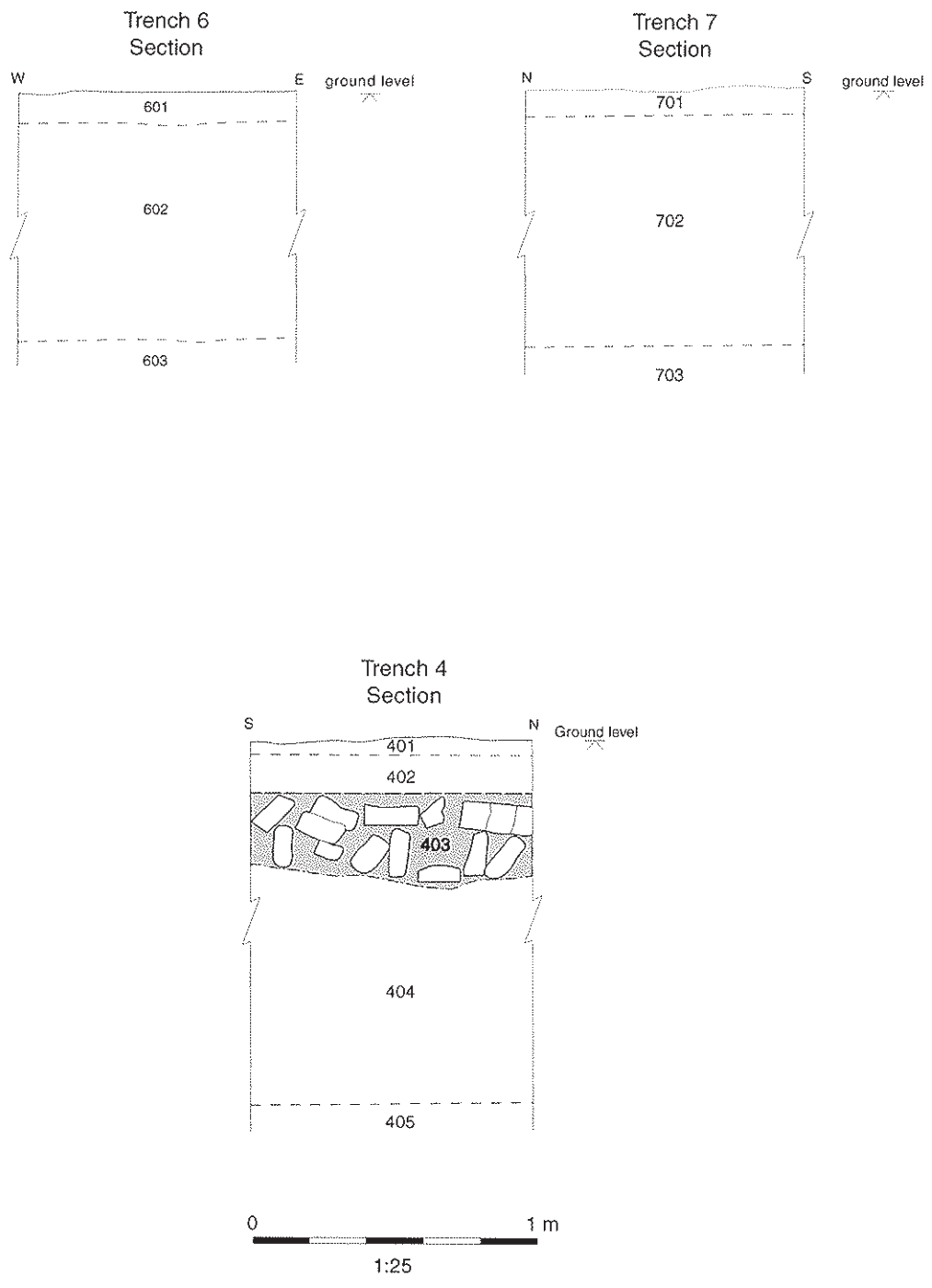


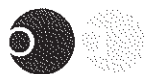
Figure 7: Sample sections



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