

317 Waldegrave Road Twickenham Richmond Upon Thames



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology

1st December 2003

Client: Huckle-Twedell Partnership

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 1394

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London*****ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*****CONTENTS**

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SUMMARY

Between the 25th of February and 20th November 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 317 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, London. The work was commissioned by the Architects, Huckle-Twedell Partnership, in accord with the conditions of the planning permission for the redevelopment of the site. The watching brief revealed no evidence for archaeological remains earlier than a 19th century brick culvert.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between February and November 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 317, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (NGR TQ 1580 7240). The work was commissioned by Huckle-Twedell Partnership in respect of a planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a small block of apartments.

1.1.2 A project brief was set by Mark Stevenson, the Archaeology Advisor for the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) requiring an archaeological monitoring and recording action (Watching Brief) to be placed on the groundworks phase of the development.

1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is situated on the Junction between Tower Road and Waldegrave Road, gently sloping north to south towards the River Thames and is approximately 0.1 hectares in area. The site lies on alluvium overlying Thames gravels which lie above London clay at roughly 16 m OD.(Fig.1).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was produced in the WSI for the project (OA 2002) and is reproduced below.

1.3.2 Twickenham lies in an area generally favoured for prehistoric settlement, and an important Neolithic site is known to have existed here. A probable Neolithic ditch was identified cutting a former channel of the Thames in 1970, which produced flint artefacts, pottery and worked antler (MoLAS 2000, 68). A Bronze Age spearhead has also been found in Twickenham (GLSMR 020992). To the east of Twickenham at Richmond Park possible Bronze Age burials have been discovered. (Cherry and Pevsner 1983, 462).

- 1.3.3 The gravels underlying western London yield intermittent finds of the Roman period. Finds of this date from Twickenham are probably associated with settlement. A settlement is known at Heathcote Road Nursery, Twickenham Bridge (MoLAS 2000, 155-6) which contained an enclosure dated to the 2nd century. A Roman pottery vessel was also recovered from an adjacent site, possibly an indication of a scatter of cremations along a Roman Road.
- 1.3.4 By the medieval period Twickenham contained a manor house and a deer park (Twickenham Park) whilst evidence for the medieval village of Twickenham is only suggested by the present day church towers dating to this period.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 2.1.2 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The groundwork consisted of two main phases, the realignment of the culvert which bisected the site and the excavation of the groundbeams prior to the start of construction.
- 2.2.2 Regular visits were made to the site by an archaeological supervisor during these works with specific attention paid during machining operations.
- 2.2.3 A record of the extent of the excavations was planned at a scale of 1:100 (Fig.2) and examples of the sections were drawn at scales of 1:20. The sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (OAU 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The original slope of the site and its subsequent relandscaping and levelling have revealed distinct stratigraphic regions.
- 3.1.2 Forming the base of the stratigraphic sequence (Fig.3, sections 2 and 3) was a thick deposit of a stiff pale grey alluvial clay (4), a natural deposit excavated in parts to a depth of over 0.7 m. This was overlaid along its northern extent by a band of coarse orange gravel (10). This varied considerably in depth from 0.4 m deep to being absent randomly throughout the site. This represented the edge of the gravel terrace.

Sealing this gravel was a 0.6 m thick band of a yellowish brown clay silt (5), a disturbed alluvial deposit, and probable subsoil.

- 3.1.3 Truncating these deposits in the southern half of the site was the cut (11), running southwest-northeast across the site. This may have been a stream running into the River Thames which was subsequently culverted in an effort to reclaim the land.
- 3.1.4 Filling this old water course were two layers of silting (Fig.3 Sections 1 and 3), a pale grey silty sand with gravel inclusions (9), exposed to a depth of over 0.8 m which was then overlain by a 0.4 m deep layer of orange brown loamy sand (7). These deposits were then seen to have been cut by a service trench (12) approximately 2 m wide and 1 m deep which contained a brick culvert and backfilling by redeposited soils (6).
- 3.1.5 The service trench and the river silts were then sealed by a 0.3 m layer of yellowish brown silty sand (8), a layer of made ground. This deposit was subsequently overlaid by a further two layers of made ground, a 0.8 m thick deposit of a red brown loamy sand (3) and a 0.3 m deep layer of a orange brown sandy silt (2). These made ground deposits and layer (5) were finally sealed by a 0.4 m thick layer of topsoil (1), which formed the present ground level. The construction of the previous building on this site was commenced after this sequence of deposits.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the watching brief and recorded on site but were not retained. These included 19th and 20th century brick, tile, bottle glass and pottery fragments.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief showed that only a limited amount of archaeological activity had taken place within the site, all of which was confined to the last 100-120 years. Its position on the northern edge of a watercourse is likely to have precluded any settlement due to the potential for flooding. The culverting of the watercourse during the 19th and 20th century would have coincided with the spread of urban development outwards from central London along the Metropolitan railway lines and the subsequent development of the locale. Overall, no significant archaeological remains were excavated during the watching brief.

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	Layer	0.4 m	Modern worked topsoil	Brick, Tile, Bottle glass, pottery	C20th
2	Layer	0.25 m	Layer of made ground	Brick, pottery	C20th
3	Layer	0.3 m	Layer of made ground	Brick, pottery	C20th
4	Layer	>0.5 m	Natural clay	-	-
5	Layer	0.3 m	Subsoil, disturbed alluvium	Pottery, Iron	C19/20th
6	Fill	0.9 m	Backfill of C19/20th culvert trench	Brick	C19/20th
7	Layer	0.4 m	Waterborne silts	-	-
8	Layer	0.25 m	Layer of made ground	Mortar flecking	C20th
9	Layer	>0.8 m	Waterborne silts	-	-
10	Layer	0.3 m	Natural gravel	-	-
11	Cut	>1.2 m	Water course	-	-
10	Cut	1.0 m	Culvert trench	-	C19/20th

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Cherry C and Pevsner, N 1983 *Buildings of England, London*.

OA 2002 *317 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, London, Written Scheme of Investigation*

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

APPENDIX 4 GLSMR/RCHIME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1) TYPE OF RECORDING

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

2) LOCATION

Borough: **Richmond Upon Thames**

Site address: 317 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, London

Site Name: 317 Waldegrave Road Site Code: WGV 03

Nat. grid Refs: centre of site:

Limits of site: N S
E W

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: Andrew Holmes

Funded by: Huckle-Twedell Partnership

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started 25/2/03 Date finished: 20/11/03

Fieldwork previously notified? NO

Fieldwork will continue? NO

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 **19th & 20th century urban development**

7) NATURAL

Type: London Clay

Height above Ordnance datum: 13 m

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES TBC

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

NOtes x8	PLans x3	PHotos	Ngtives x20
SLides x20	COrrrespondence	MScripts (unpub reports, etc)	
BUIk 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: TBC
- c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: NO

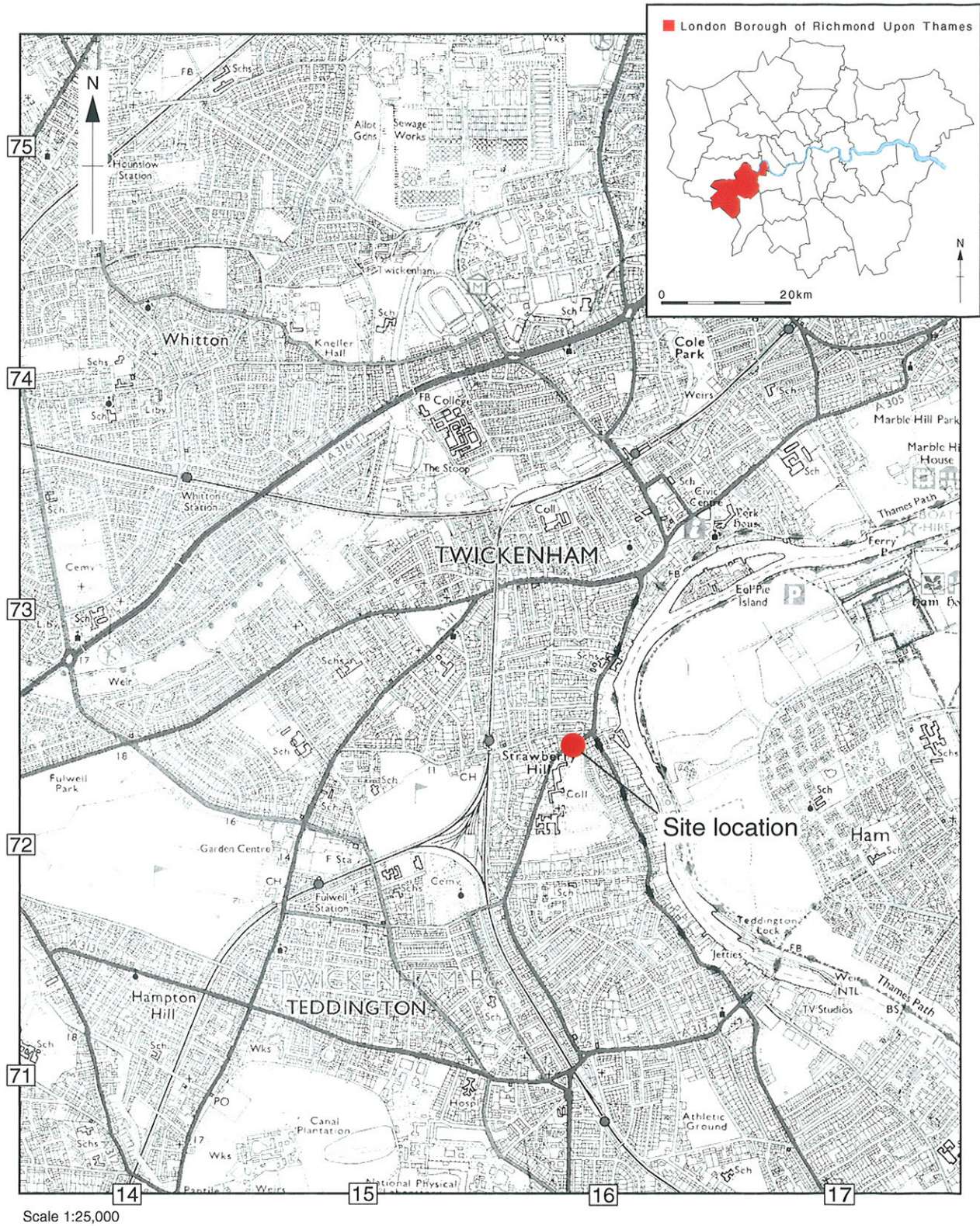
10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

See Appendix 2 Bibliography and references

SIGNED: *JHiller*

DATE: 5/12/2003.

NAME: JONATHAN HILLER



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Figure 1: Site location

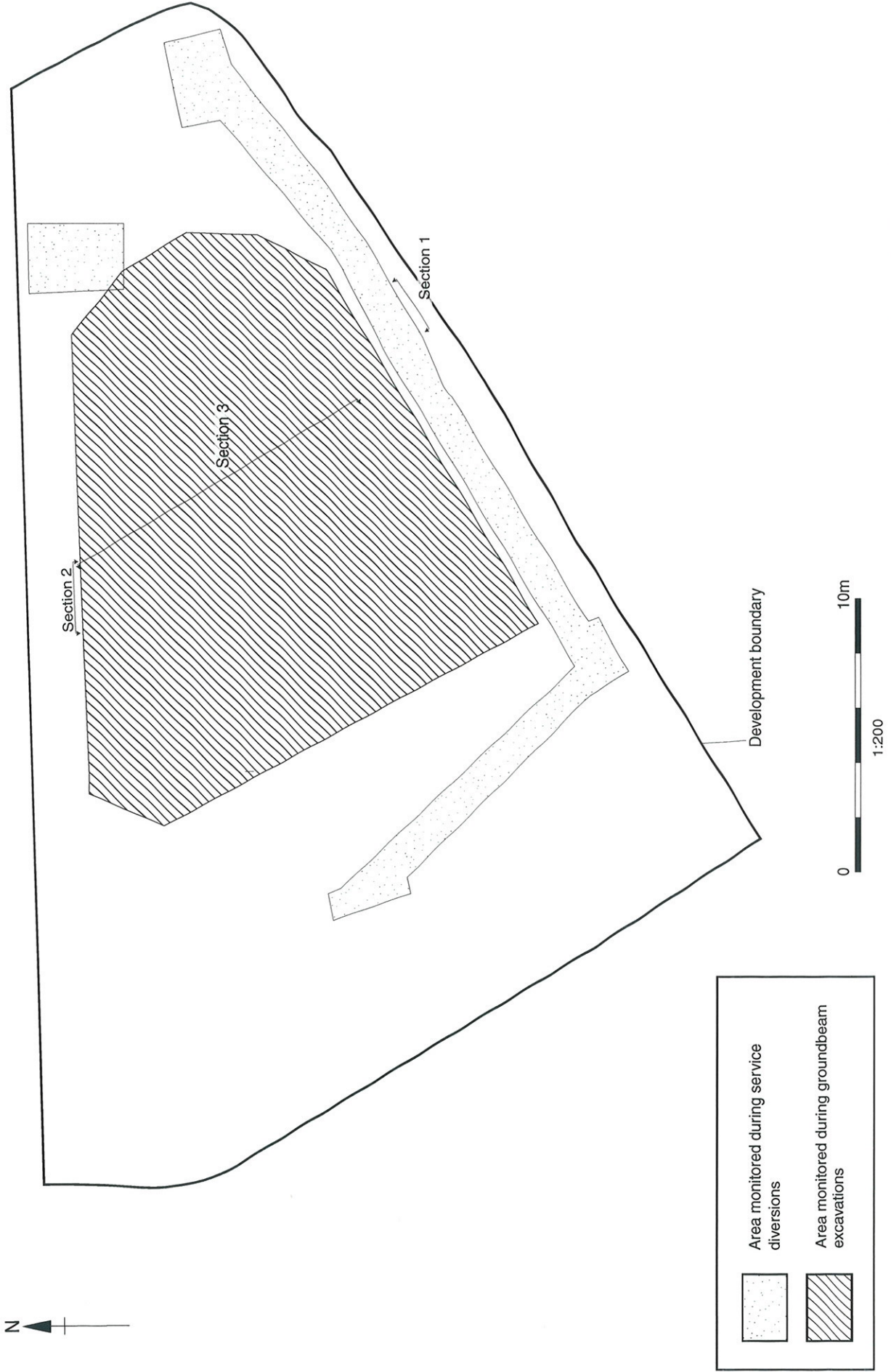


Figure 2: Plan of Watching brief areas

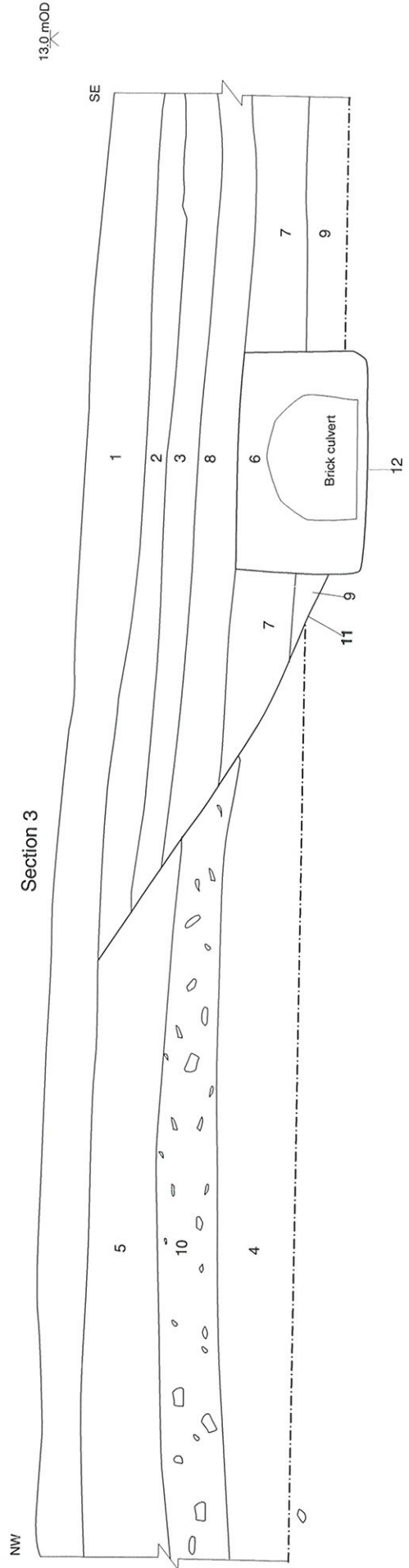
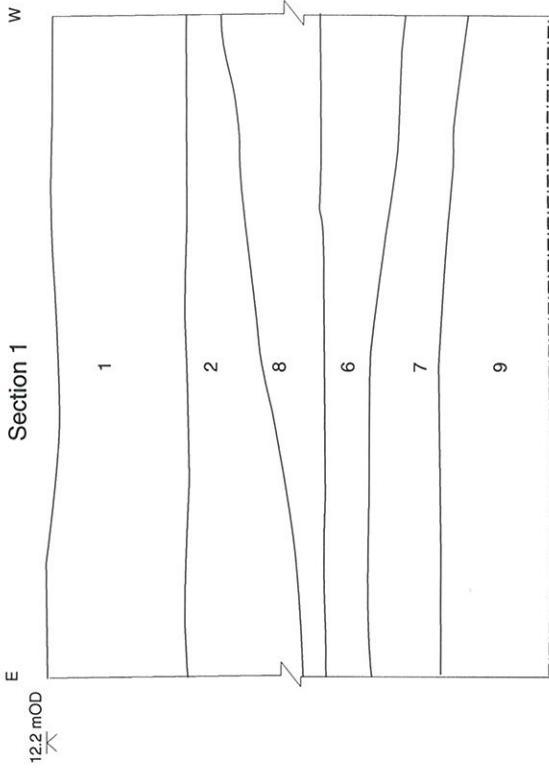
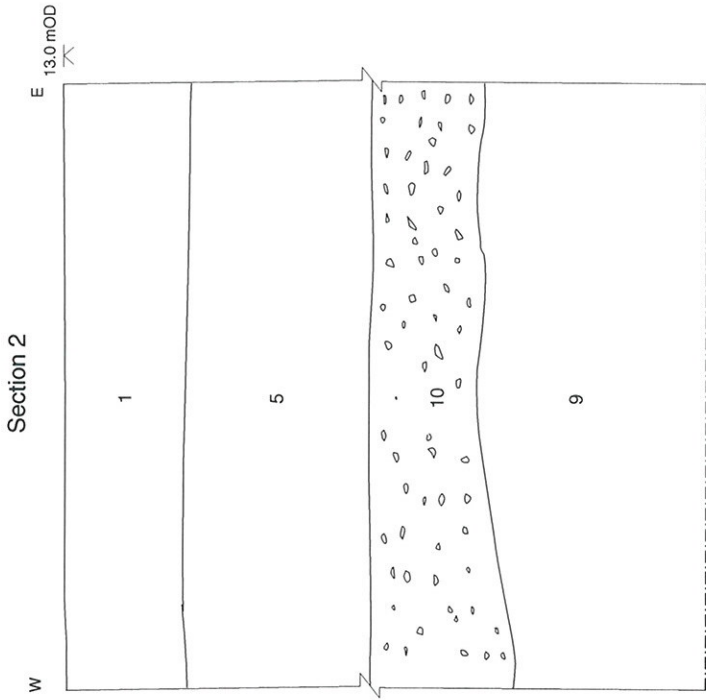


Figure 3: Sections 1-3



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