

10 Parkside Avenue Wimbledon West London



Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2009

Client: Fowler Swimming Pools

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NGR: TQ 237 713

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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SUMMARY

On March 3rd 2009, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at 10 Parkside Avenue, Wimbledon, London (TQ 237 713) on behalf of Fowler Swimming Pools. The evaluation revealed post-medieval garden deposits directly overlying the underlying terrace gravel. No evidence of earlier archaeology was encountered during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 On 3rd March 2009, OA carried out a field evaluation in the rear garden of 10 Parkside Avenue, Wimbledon, London (NGR: TQ 237 713) (Fig.1) on behalf of Fowler Swimming Pools, in respect of a planning application for a proposed outdoor swimming pool and pool house (Planning Permission 08\PO663).
- 1.1.2 As the site lies within the Archaeological Priority Area of Wimbledon Common, Diane Walls, Archaeological Advisor for the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, attached a condition requiring an archaeological field evaluation prior to development.
- 1.1.3 OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) showing how it would meet these requirements (OA 2009).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the northern edge of Wimbledon, West London, to the east of Wimbledon common (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the north by Parkside Avenue, to the east by Peek Crescent and to the west and south by residential properties. The development area is located within a rectangular area of level ground at approximately 54m OD which appears to have been terraced into the western end of the site. The majority of the site is currently lawn with flower beds running around the borders.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is complex, with the site lying between the junction of High Level Terrace Gravel, in Wimbledon Common to the west, and Head deposits in Wimbledon Park to the east. The site itself is shown to lie over London Clay (British Geological Survey Sheet 270).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA, 2009) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The only Scheduled Ancient Monument within any meaningful distance from the site is Caesar's Camp (SAM: London 89). This earthwork comprises a circular bank and

external ditch, with a lesser bank beyond the ditch. The earth work is roughly 300 m in diameter and is thought to date from the Iron Age. Caesar's camp lies 1.35 km to the south west of the application site.

- 1.3.3 Wimbledon Common along with Putney Lower Common and Putney Heath is a large open space of 0.46 ha, and forms a site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation. The common is the focus for many burial mounds and other prehistoric earthworks, many of which appear to have been excavated during or prior to the 18th century. None of these monuments appear to lie within 500 m of the application site.
- 1.3.4 No mention of Wimbledon occurs in the *Domesday* survey, as it was assessed under the extensive Manor of Mortlake. A Manor of Wimbledon is recorded as belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury between 1328 and 1536. After passing through many royal hands, the manor was granted to Sir Thomas Cecil by Elizabeth I in 1589. Cecil had built Wimbledon House, on the ground presently occupied by Home Park Road. This was replaced in 1732 with a house that burned down in 1785. Its successor remained in Arthur Road until 1949.
- 1.3.5 Wimbledon Village grew at the top of the hill near Wimbledon House and the church. Immediately north of the church is the Old Rectory, built about 1500. The High Street forms part of the medieval village and at one end contains Eagle House, built in 1613, and the adjacent Rose and Crown dating from the mid 17th century.
- 1.3.6 The railway came to Wimbledon in 1838, and much of the present day High Street dates from after this period. Residential expansion continued rapidly throughout the latter half of the 19th century and reached its zenith by the 1930s.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, date, depth below ground level and depth of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the evaluation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The development area measured approximately 500 m². The evaluation comprised two trenches, one measuring 10 m long by 1.6 m wide, and another measuring 3 m long by 1.6 m wide, these representing almost 5% of the site area (Fig.2).

3.1.2 The trenches were excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6 m wide toothless grading bucket.

3.1.3 Excavation continued, removing the overburden in spits until either the first significant archaeological horizon was reached or undisturbed natural.

3.2 **Fieldwork methods and recording**

3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20, a series of sample sections showing the stratigraphy of each trench were also recorded. All features and the sections were photographed using digital photography and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 **Finds**

3.3.1 All the finds recovered were post-medieval (19th/20th-century) in date, and included fragments of brick, bottle glass, slate, glazed earthenware and creamware pottery. Their presence was recorded but they were not retained.

3.4 **Palaeo-environmental evidence**

3.4.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were identified during this evaluation.

4 **RESULTS: GENERAL**

4.1 **Soils and ground conditions**

4.1.1 The trenches were located on two distinct areas of level ground separated by a N-S running gently sloping bank. Both the trenches came down onto a yellow-brown sandy gravel natural. Soil divisions were clearly defined and the water table was not encountered.

4.2 **Distribution of archaeological deposits**

4.2.1 Post-medieval archaeological deposits were encountered in both trenches, but no other significant archaeology.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1 (Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Section 1)

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 measured 12 m long by 1.6 m wide and was located within the centre of the proposed swimming pool. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4 m below ground level. The stratigraphy observed was identical throughout its length and the description of a sample section can be applied throughout.
- 5.1.2 The underlying natural, a orange brown sandy gravel (4) was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m below the current ground level. This was overlaid by a 0.08 m deep layer of yellow brown sandy silt clay (3). Overlying this was a 0.12 m deep layer of light yellow brown clay silt (2). The was sealed by a 0.2 m deep layer of dark brown silt loam (1), the present day topsoil and turf.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Section 2)

- 5.1.3 This trench measured 3 m long by 1.6 m wide and was located in the flower bed against the western edge of the site. The flower bed was raised approximately 0.5 m above the level of the lawned area. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.73 m below ground level.
- 5.1.4 The underlying natural (14) was encountered at a depth of 0.6 m below the level of the flower bed. At the western end of the trench this was overlaid by a 0.08 m deep layer of yellow brown sandy silt clay (13), which in turn was overlaid by a 0.1 m deep layer of light yellow brown clay silt (12). At the eastern end of the trench the natural was overlaid by a 0.2 m deep layer of crushed brick and gravel (17).
- 5.1.5 Cutting the western edge of 17 and the eastern edge of 12 was a 0.8 m wide by 0.3 m deep linear feature (16), running N-S across the trench parallel to the current property boundary. This was filled by a yellow-brown silt clay (15) which contained fragments of brick and glazed creamware pottery indicative of a 19th/20th century date.
- 5.1.6 This fill was sealed by a layer dark brown silt loam (11) up to 0.4 m in depth. Cutting this deposit was a vertically sided cut (18), 0.1 m wide and up to 0.4 m in depth. Built into this trench was a shallow brick wall (19) formed of four courses of yellow machine made brick bonded with cement mortar. This wall formed a border along the eastern edge of the flower bed, allowing a step of approximately 0.25 m between the flower bed and the lawn.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

6.1.1 The conditions in the field were dry and clear with no intrusion by modern features (e.g. services). The distribution and location of the trenches, and percentage sample of the site should give a good reflection of the overall archaeological potential of the site.

6.2 Overall interpretation

Trench 1

6.2.1 Layer 3 has been interpreted as a bio-perturbation layer between the natural and the subsoil. The subsoil, 2, contained fragments of machine made brick suggesting a late 19th/20th century date.

6.2.2 The topsoil and turf 1, produced fragments of glazed earthenware again suggesting a late 19th/20th century date.

Trench 2

6.2.3 Layer 13 is a probable bio-perturbation layer similar to layer 3. Layer 12 is a similar subsoil to layer 2. Layer 11 is a layer of worked garden soil similar to layer 1.

6.2.4 Feature 16 and its attendant fill 15, has been dated to the 19th/20th century and probably forms an earlier garden path along the western side of the garden. Layer 7 represents a later phase of garden path, probably constructed when the tennis court was constructed. Wall 18 is modern and is probably 20th-century in origin.

6.2.5 The lack of early archaeological features and residual finds suggests that this site has been truncated in the post-medieval period. This event probably occurred when the levelled area in the rear garden forming a probable tennis court was constructed. The area encompassing the proposed swimming pool appears to have been lowered by approximately 0.3 m and the eastern end of the garden and the borders built up using the material excavated. This can be seen by the shallow grassed slope around the western end of the garden. It is probable that this activity has truncated the archaeology potential within the development area.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
Trench 1						
	1	Layer	0.22 m	Modern topsoil and turf	Pottery, brick, bottle glass	C19th/ C20th
	2	Layer	0.12 m	Subsoil	Brick	C19th/ C20th
	3	Layer	0.08 m	Bio-perturbation layer	-	-
	4	Layer	> 0.1 m	Natural sands and gravel	-	-
Trench 2						
	11	Layer	0.22 m	Modern topsoil and turf	Pottery, brick, bottle glass	C19th/ C20th
	12	Layer	0.12 m	Subsoil	Brick	C19th/ C20th
	13	Layer	0.08 m	Bio-perturbation layer	-	-
	14	Layer	> 0.1 m	Natural sands and gravel	-	-
	15	Fill	0.3 m	Earlier garden path	Brick, slate, pottery	C19th/ C20th
	16	Cut	0.3 m	Linear feature containing fill 17	-	C19th/ C20th
	17	Layer	0.2 m	Later garden path	Brick	C19th/ C20th
	18	Cut	0.4 m	Foundation trench for wall 19	-	C20th
	18	Wall	0.4 m	Shallow wall forming border around flower beds	Brick	C20th

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*

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

Weinrebb, B, and Hibbert, C (eds), 2008 *The London Encyclopaedia Third Edition, London*

OA 2009 *10 Parkside Avenue, Wimbledon, London: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

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: Merton

Site address: 10 Parkside Avenue, Wimbledon, London

Site Name: As above Site Code: PSD09

Nat. grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 2371 7133

Limits of site: N: TQ 2371 7134 S: TQ 2371 7132

E: TQ 2370 7133 W: TQ 2372 7133

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: D. Dodds

Funded by: Fowler Swimming Pools

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started 3/03/09 Date finished: 3/03/09

Fieldwork previously notified? NO

Fieldwork will continue? NO

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Post-Medieval

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES 19th/20th century garden deposits. Evidence of truncation. No
other periods encountered

7) NATURAL

Type: High Level Terrace gravel

Height above Ordnance datum: Average 54 m OD

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

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

NOtes x 20	Plans x 2	PHotos	Ngatives x 24
SLides x 0	COrrspondence	MScripts (unpub reports, etc)	
BUIk finds x 0	SMall finds	SOil samples	
OTHer Digital photographs x 20			

- b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location: Museum of London
- c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: yes

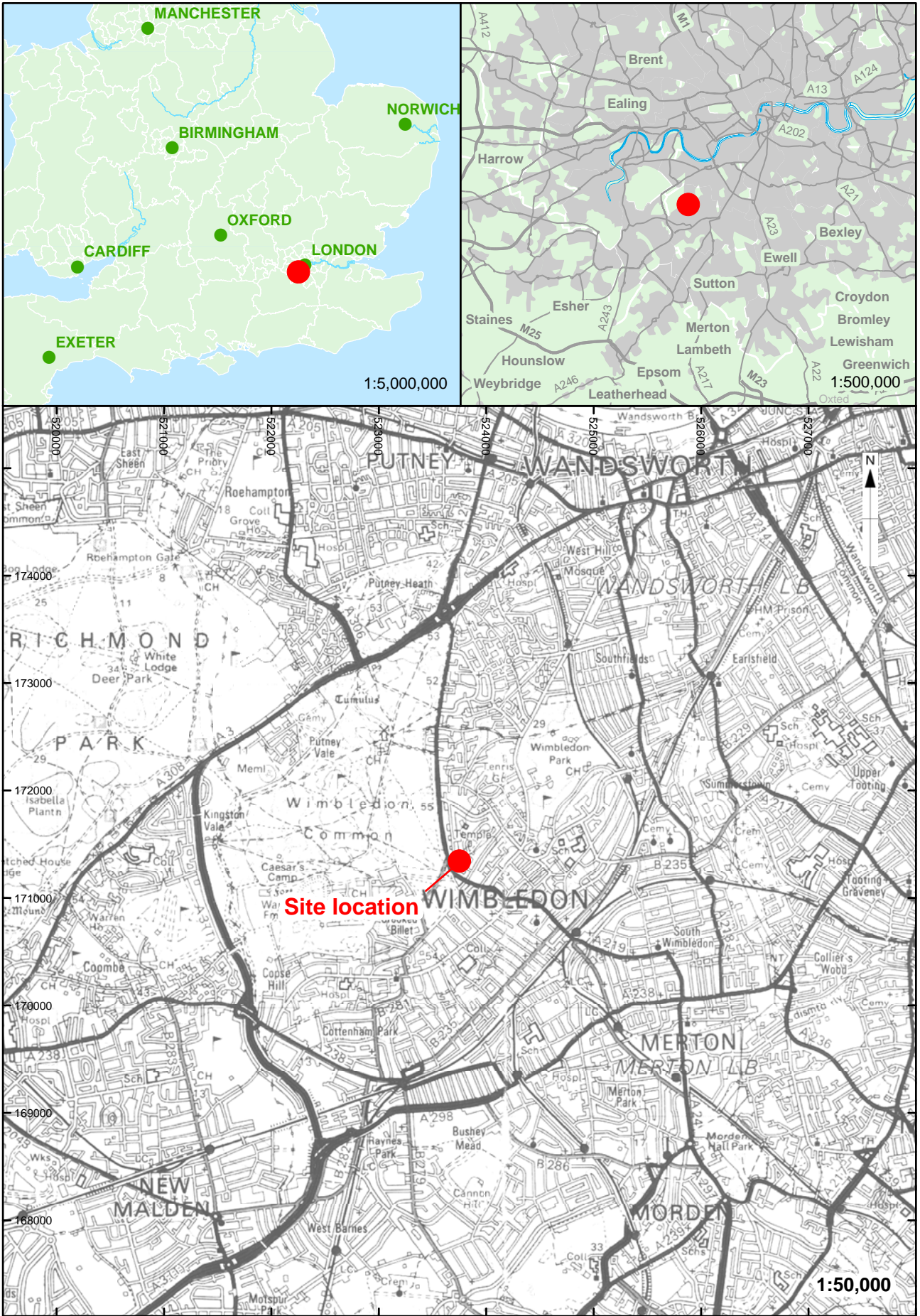
10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

See Appendix 2 Bibliography

SIGNED:

DATE: 6/03/2009

NAME : Mike Sims



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Figure 1: Site location

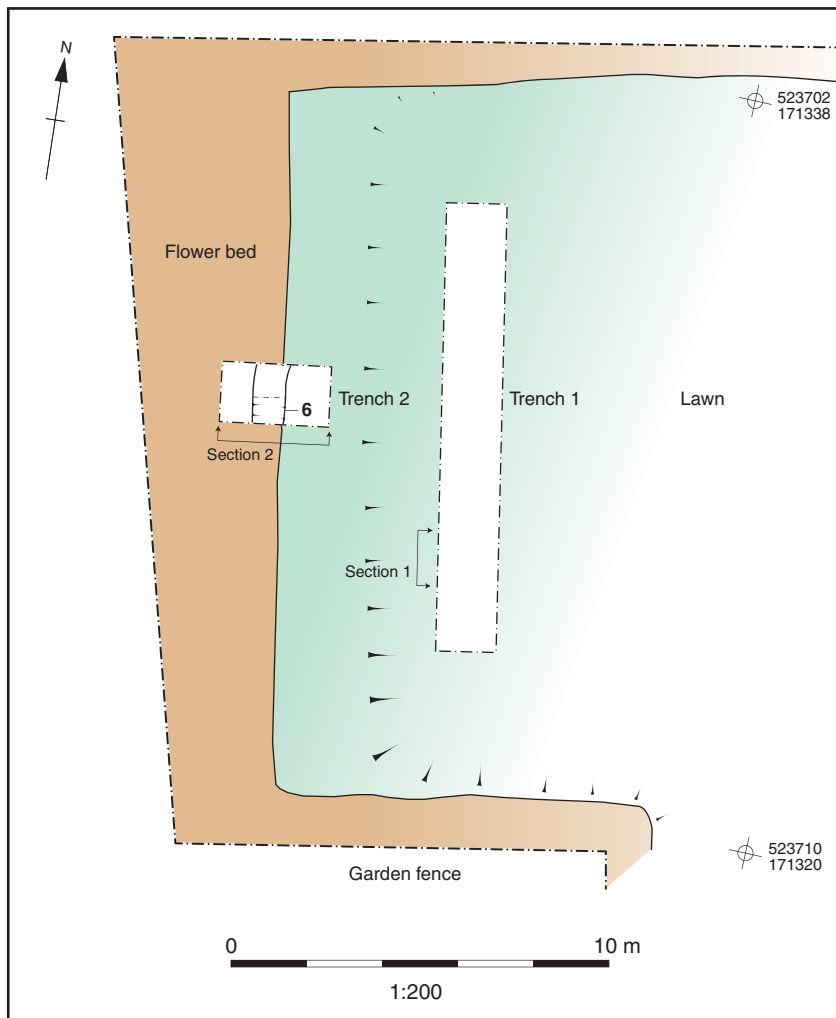
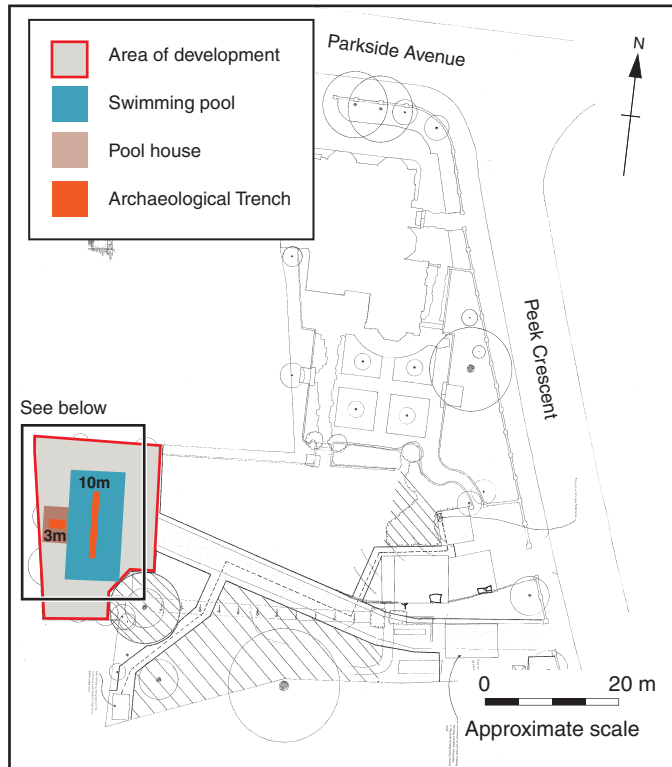


Figure 2: Site plan

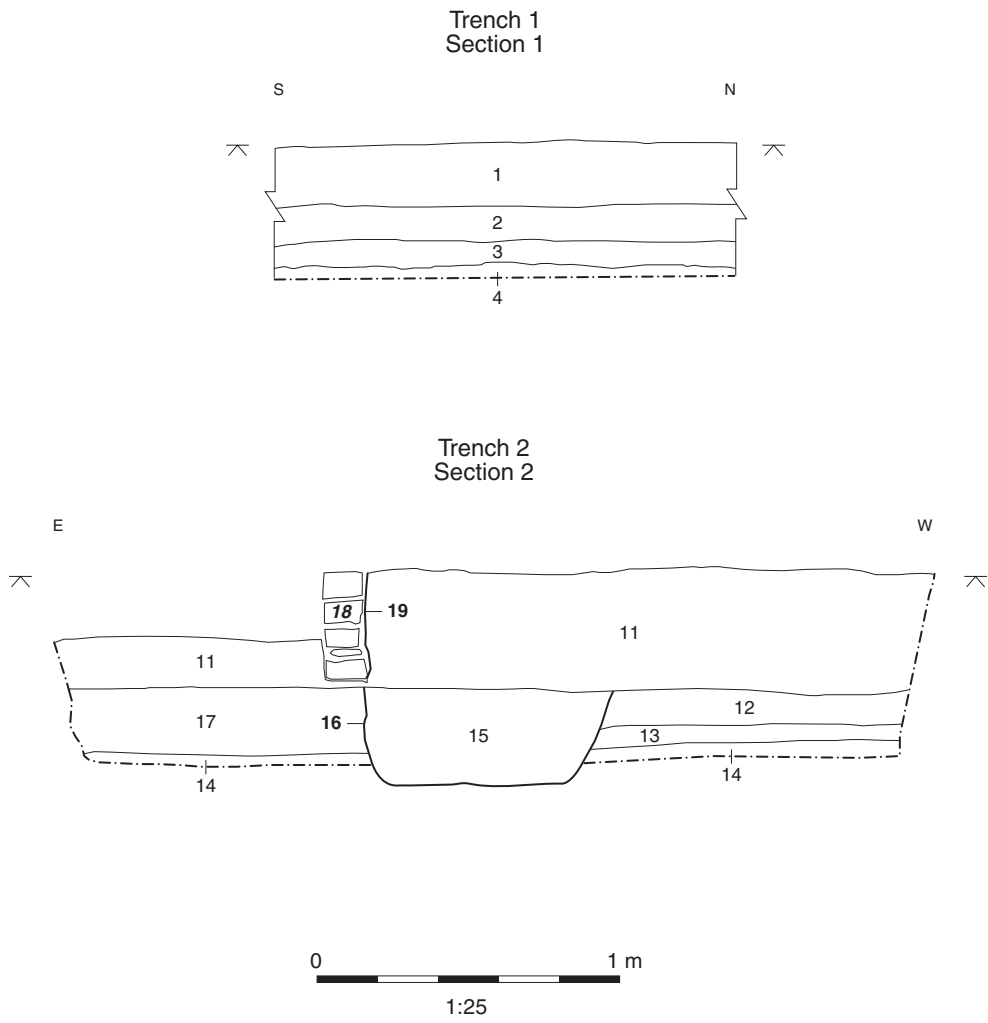


Figure 3: Sections



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