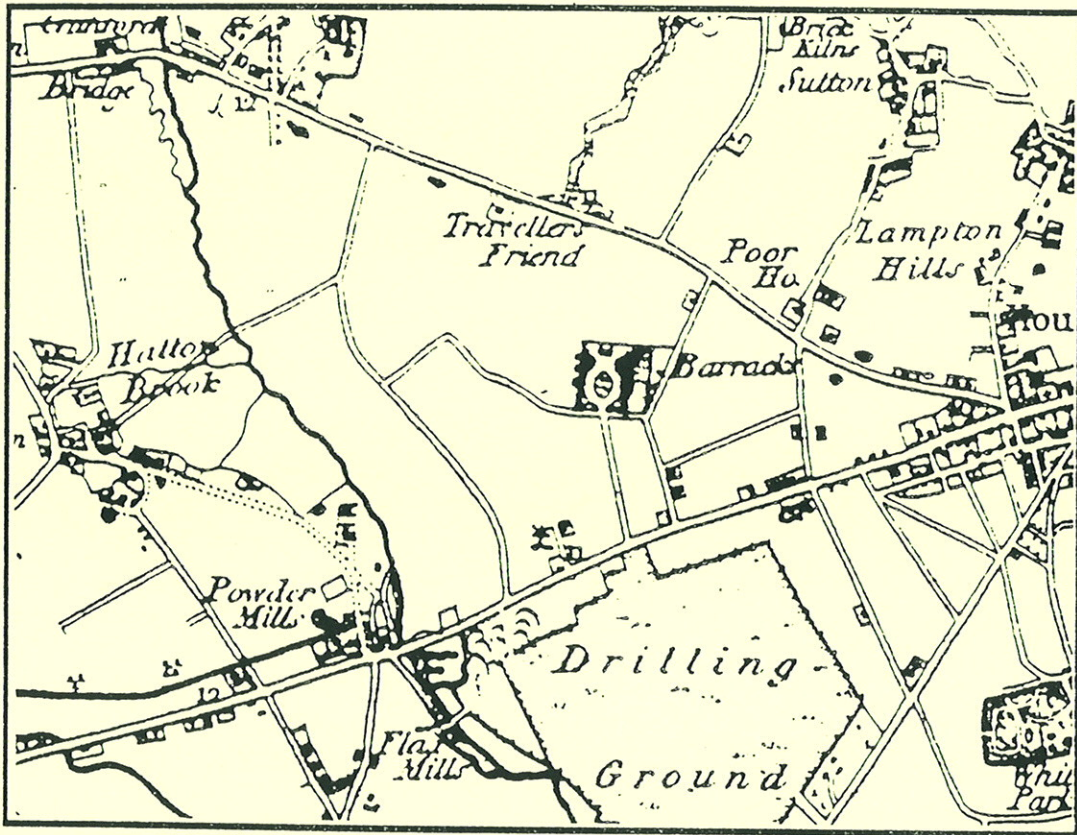


Green Lane, Hounslow, Greater London.

NGR TQ 1140 7520

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeological Unit

October 1996

THE PERRET CONTROL CO. LTD., GREEN LANE, HOUNSLOW. TW 4.

TQ1140 7520.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION, OCTOBER 1996.

SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (O.A.U.) undertook a field evaluation on land at the former Perret Control Co. Ltd., Green Lane, Hounslow, on the 14th and the 15th of October 1996. The evaluation was carried out ahead of a proposed redevelopment of the site. Two trenches were excavated neither of which contained significant archaeology. The site appears to have been subjected to intensive agriculture and modern industrial development which has removed any archaeology which may have been present.

INTRODUCTION

The O.A.U. undertook an archaeological evaluation on land situated on the south corner of the junction between Pulborough Way and Green Lane in the Borough of Hounslow (Fig. 1), for W.H. Stephens and Sons on behalf of Super Structure Development Ltd., on the 14th and 15th of October 1996. A planning condition was imposed requiring an archaeological evaluation of the site, prior to planning determination. The investigation was carried out in accordance with an English Heritage brief which was provided on behalf of the local planning authority. The trench locations were slightly altered by the architects to avoid interference with the area where the foundation bases were to be positioned.

The site (fig. 1) occupies an area of 3600 sqm and currently incorporates a U-shaped office and warehouse complex with tarmac and overgrown areas. The ground is contaminated with lead, deemed in the contamination report to be "hazardous industrial waste", which probably derives from imported industrial waste used to make-up the ground and from the recent use of the site as a car breakers yard.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The river Crane lies 300m to the west of the site, which is situated on a relatively flat gravel plateau. This plateau is part of the Taplow terrace, and the ground, though appearing relatively flat, rises slightly to the north-east.

Recent prehistoric landscape studies in the west of London suggest that the gravel terraces in the subdivisions between north-south orientated rivers, such as the Crane, may be focii of Neolithic and Bronze-age ritual monuments. In the early and later Roman periods the land was reordered and Anglo-Saxon settlement may have been focused on river valley edges. The land appears to be within the bounds of Hounslow Heath, possibly indicating that the area was not used intensively for agricultural purposes from the medieval period to the mid 19th century.

Aerial photographs have revealed two earthworks in the immediate area of the site east of Green lane. Cropmarks indicate a circular enclosure, parallel ditches, and other less coherent patterns of linear ditches running up the east side of Green Lane. Further cropmarks have been identified in the sports ground to the north-west of the site.

The land was probably farmed from the mid 19th century until 1958 when the land was developed as an industrial estate.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

Aims

- i) The general purpose of the evaluation was to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains on the site.
- ii) To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeology and environmental/ ecofactual remains.
- iii) It was conjectured that cropmarks located to the east of Green Lane and also North-west of the site may extend into the development area, and it was hoped that the evaluation might pick up features that related to these or that could answer some of the broader landscape questions posed in the brief.

Method

Two trial trenches were excavated. The first was alligned east-north-east to west-south-west and located between the two wings of the U-shaped standing building, and the second to the south and parallel to the southern wing of the standing buildings. The trenches were excavated by a JCB sitemaster using a toothless ditching bucket. They were 1.8m wide and 20m in length, and were excavated down to the first significant archaeological horizon or, in their absence, to the natural subsoil/geology. The resulting surfaces were cleaned, planned, levelled and photographed. A sample of finds from the overburden was kept for analysis and long sections of the trench were drawn. The area evaluated was approximately 2% of the development site.

RESULTS

Trench 1 (fig. 2)

The trench was excavated to natural gravel (1) which was overlain by a former ploughsoil (2) which contained brick and cement of a modern date. This was overlain by two make-up layers, one of concrete and brick (3) and the second of pieces of broken tarmac and industrial waste (4). A modern service trench, [6] and (7), cut down through all these layers and into the natural gravel at the eastern end of the trench. The whole trench was then overlain by a thin layer of turf (5), containing modern rubbish.

Trench 2 (fig. 2)

This trench was again excavated to natural gravel (14) which also contained some silty sand (16), and silty clay (15) within it. This was overlain by a modern plough-soil (11) which was cut by a heavily oil contaminated ditch or sump [13] and (12), at the North-eastern end of the trench. As in trench 1, a similar sequence of made-up ground deposits followed. A layer of hard-core (10), consisting of concrete and brick, followed by a layer of broken tarmac and industrial waste (9), including lumps of lead, concealed by a thin layer of turf/top-soil (8).

DEPOSIT SURVEY

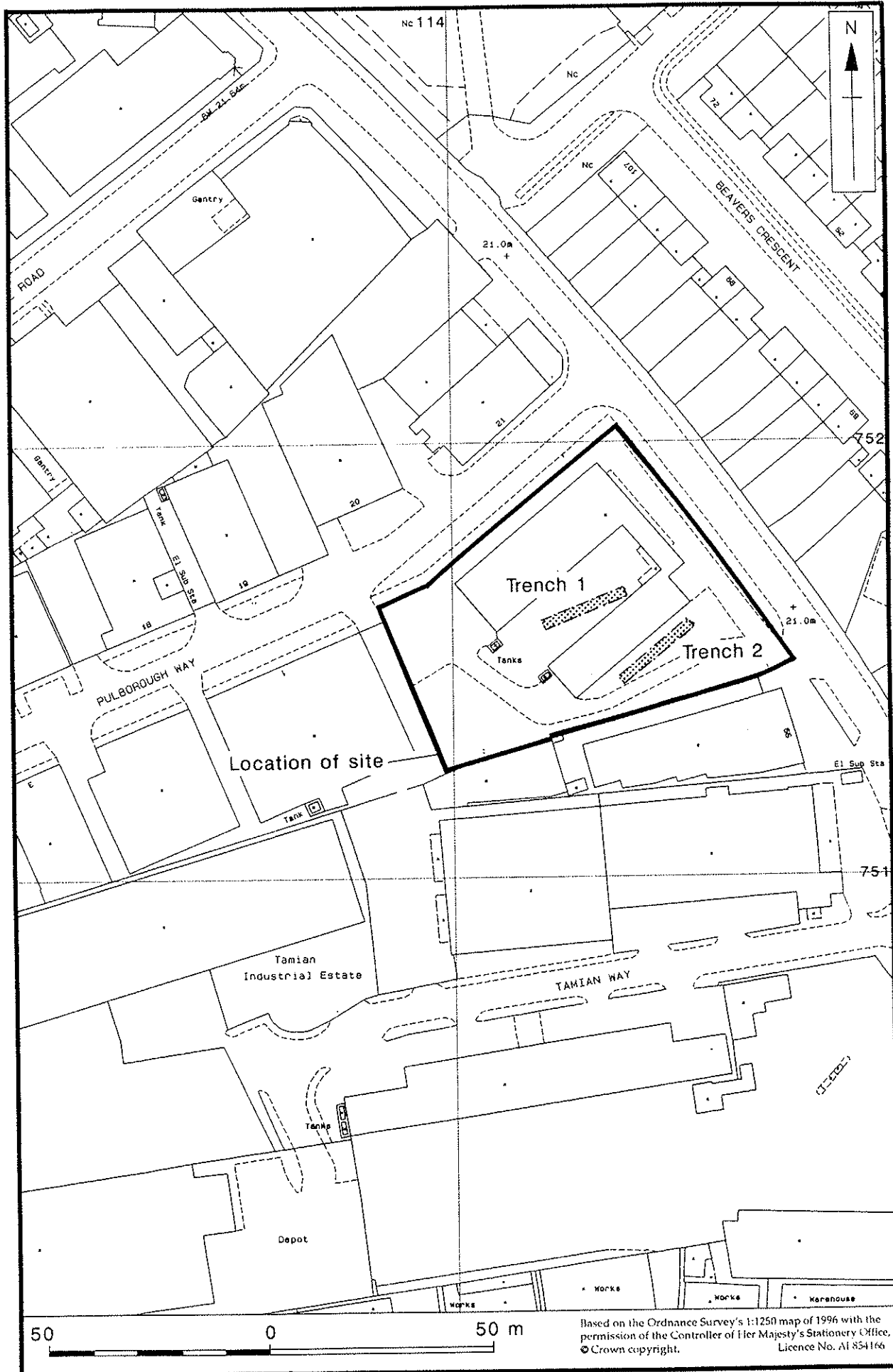
The proposed development of this site for 2 new industrial warehouse units will consist of the demolition of the existing standing buildings and the excavation and insertion of foundation pads down to the gravel for the new structures. The evaluated evidence suggests that intensive late 19th and 20th century agriculture followed by mid 20th century industrial development has, in all likelihood, removed any archaeology, that may have existed on the site.

CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation produced no archaeological deposits of any importance within the development area.

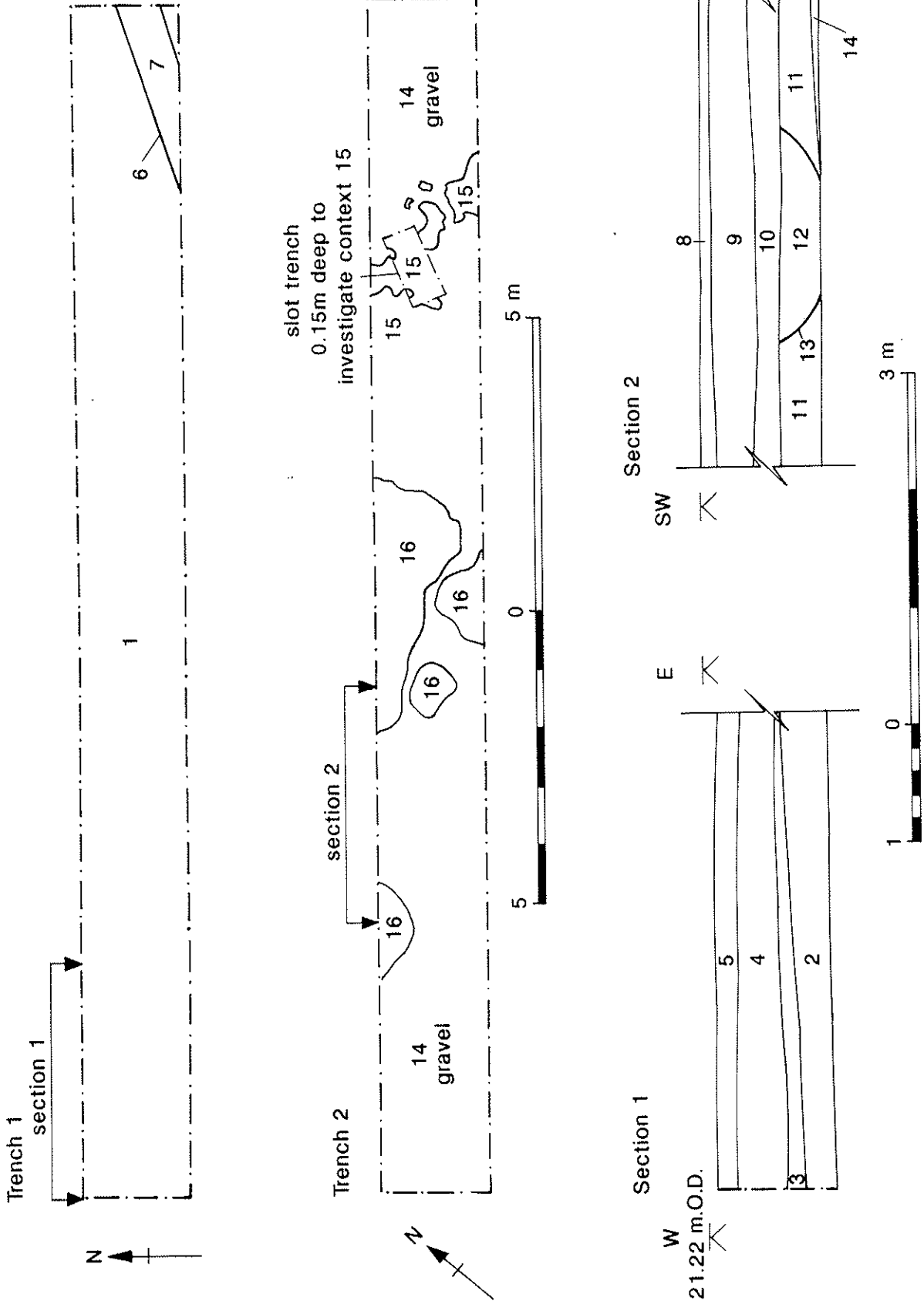
Neil Macnab
October 1996.

Trench	CTX no.	description	width	length	height	date
1	1	taplow terrace gravels				
1	2	plough soil			0.28m	modern
1	3	hardcore			0.15m - 0.18m	modern
1	4	dump			0.15m - 0.33m	modern
1	5	top-soil			0.02m - 0.18m	modern
1	6	service trench	2.70m			modern
1	7	fill of service trench	2.70m			modern
2	8	top-soil			0.10m - 0.25m	modern
2	9	dump			0.30m - 0.40m	modern
2	10	hardcore			0.30m - 0.40m	modern
2	11	plough-soil			0.10m - 0.25m	modern
2	12	ditch fill	1.81m		0.32m	modern
2	13	ditch	1.81m		0.32m	
2	14	taplow terrace gravels				
2	15	silty sand natural				
2	16	silty clay natural				



Location of site and trenches.

figure 1



Trenches 1 and 2: plans and sections.

figure 2



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