

Sadlers Wells Theatre,  
Rosebery Avenue,  
Islington

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Oxford Archaeological Unit  
April 1996

**Sadlers Wells Theatre Trust Ltd**

**SADLERS WELLS THEATRE, ROSEBERY AVENUE, ISLINGTON**  
***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT***

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**OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

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**OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

**April 1996**

# SADLERS WELLS THEATRE, ROSEBERY AVENUE, ISLINGTON

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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## **SUMMARY**

*Sadlers Wells Theatre Trust proposes to redevelop the theatre on its historic site in Islington in order to improve its stage facilities. This will involve construction of extensive new basements and will be potentially destructive of archaeological deposits. The Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a small scale evaluation in March and April 1996 to establish the extent and quality of any surviving deposits. The evaluation consisted of four small trenches.*

*Two trenches, Trench 3 located to the west of the stage in the scene dock and Trench 4 to the north of the Lilian Baylis Theatre located more recent deposits. The deposits in Trench 3 were connected with the construction of the present theatre in 1928-31, while those in Trench 4 were very recent and contained material deposited during the building of the Lilian Baylis Theatre in 1988. Sealed beneath this material was a truncated 19th century pit. In both trenches the largely undisturbed, but probably truncated natural gravel was located.*

*Trench 1 located outside the theatre to the southwest contained a rammed gravel deposit laid down in the 18th century as well as more modern infill associated with the construction of the present theatre. Trench 2 in the main foyer of the theatre revealed evidence for a series of events. The earliest feature was a demolition deposit of crushed brick. Overlying this was further evidence for the 18th century gravel infill. Two phases of surviving brick-walled structure were also located. These had been built after the infilling episode and probably formed parts of earlier theatre buildings known to have existed on the site prior to the 19th century. The earlier phase of structure may prove to be part of the house built by Thomas Rosoman in 1764.*

## **1 BACKGROUND**

### **1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.1 Sadlers Wells Theatre Trust proposes to redevelop the theatre on its historic site in Islington in order to improve its stage facilities. This will have an impact on the existing structure, on any remains of previous theatres, and on other suspected archaeological deposits which may survive in presently unbasemented areas.
- 1.1.2 The previous theatre, in the form surviving at the opening of the 20th century, has been described as retaining outside walls which made it the oldest remaining theatre in Europe (*Oxford Companion of Music*). When redeveloped in 1928-31, the *Architect and Building News* described it as already behind the times, evidently because in reusing these elements the architect was being constrained by matters of sentiment which were 'more appropriate to a museum'.
- 1.1.3 The proposed redevelopment of the 1990's will reuse much of the 1928 auditorium structure, and, therefore, preserve those remains of the pre-1928 structure which appear from photographs to have been retained in the west wall of the auditorium, but not necessarily a second section of retained structure which appears to have been incorporated in rooms to the south of the auditorium.

### **1.2 Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to the Sadlers Wells Theatre Trust for funding the project. Thanks are also due to Roger Spence, project director for the Theatre Trust, and in particular to the theatre manager for his help and co-operation on a day to day basis. The archaeological investigations were carried out at the same time as other investigations undertaken for engineering purposes, and thanks are due to the on-site contractors Messrs W Long for providing attendances and to their site staff who cut concrete floors for the evaluation trenches and undertook much of the digging of late deposits within the trenches. Thanks are due to Bovis, who are managing the re-development project, and to their site agents Chuck Wright and Colin Andrews. Finally thanks are due to Robert Whytehead of English Heritage for support and advice.

### **1.3 Reason for the Project**

- 1.3.1 The proposed development involves major new basements, which will cover the entire footprint of the theatre with the exception of the auditorium, booking offices and escape stairs, and will also take in the triangle of land formed by the junction of Rosebery Avenue and Arlington Way. An area to the north of the Lilian Baylis Theatre, behind No's 26-28 Arlington Way, the garden of the Georgian House (No. 381 St John's Street) was originally to have been developed as a basement, but this part of the development we understand has now been removed from the scheme. The original scheme would have approximately doubled the present basement areas. The latter will also be deepened, in particular for the formation of an orchestra elevator pit.

1.3.2 Plans held by the Theatre indicate the extent of existing basements. The only indication of any substantial previous basementing of the site is a reference to a pool used for stage performances, fed from the New River, but this is unlikely to have been deeper than the existing sub-stage basement (OAU 1995, 4). The proposed ground disturbance is much more extensive than any recorded previous basementing on the site, and may expose archaeological deposits relating to prehistoric and medieval activity, including conduits and further wells, deposits relating to the embanking of the man-made New River which ran past the east side of the theatre, also foundations, floors and other deposits of the previous theatres.

#### **1.4 Geology and topography**

1.4.1 The theatre stands on the southern tip of a terrace of Boyne Hill gravel, a Pleistocene deposit surviving after periglacial deposits were scoured away by river action. Borehole information indicates that the gravel terrace is c 1.7 m below the present ground surface and overlies London Clay at a depth of 4.2 m. The borehole data suggests that the gravel is capped with brickearth.

1.4.2 The naturally terraced edge of the gravel is indicated by the drop in levels to the east and the south. The theatre site would have appeared to be on a promontory. The slope cuts down to an interface between the permeable gravels and impermeable clay, creating a natural springline at the base of the gravels.

1.4.3 Water is likely to be encountered during excavations from the development, but the water table as indicated by the theatre's basement pumping is substantially lower than the depth of the trial trenching undertaken for the evaluation.

#### **1.5 Historical and archaeological background**

1.5.1 The Archaeological Desktop Report (OAU 1995) provides greater detail on the historical and archaeological background and provides a gazetteer of archaeological discoveries. Only those archaeological finds from the site of the theatre or its immediate vicinity are noted here together with a brief note of the key points in history of the theatre.

1.5.2 A collection of Palaeolithic stone implements was found at Sadler's Wells in the 19th century and a Bronze Age spearhead came from the site of the New River Head. The precise findspot for the palaeolithic material is not known (OAU 1995, Gazetteer nos 20 & 22).

1.5.3 Significant medieval evidence relates to the water supply to Clerkenwell Priory: the projected line of the medieval nuns' conduit crosses the theatre site (OAU 1995, Gazetteer no 4). To the north of the theatre was the site of a windmill owned by the nuns (OAU 1995, Gazetteer no 12). A number of wells and springs were situated in the vicinity (OAU 1995, p 16).



- 1.5.4 After the reformation, the medieval wells were stopped up, but the area was used for theatrical entertainments and other recreational purposes (OAU 1995, p 16). In 1613 the New River was constructed to flow into a reservoir, now the New River Head.
- 1.5.5 In 1683 the well located beneath the present rear stalls was discovered by Sadler, during gravel digging. Sadler's Music House was already open to the public at this date. Two further wells were discovered by Sadler opposite New River Head in 1685. These he sold off in 1686 and under the name New Tunbridge Wells they proved successful, while Sadler's original well dried up. His theatre was still operating. By the end of the 17th-century the theatre was known as Miles Musick-House (OAU 1995, p 17).
- 1.5.6 In 1724, Miles died and the theatre was taken over by Francis Forcer and his wife Frances (née Miles). In 1737 it was claimed that the house was now 'entirely new modelled and made every way more commodious than heretofore'. By 1745 the theatre was so disreputable that it was closed down by the Grand Jury of Middlesex (OAU 1995, p 17-8).
- 1.5.7 In 1746 the lease of the theatre was acquired by Thomas Rosoman, architect and builder, and Peter Hough, tumbler. The property at this date consisted of a brewhouse, storehouse, stables, granary and other buildings as well as 'the Stage, Benches and Galleries thereunto belonging' (OAU 1995, p 18). In 1764 Rosoman rebuilt the theatre, reputedly in seven weeks, and built himself a handsome house. In 1778 the interior of the theatre was improved and again in 1802 the interior was rebuilt: 'the place is completely gutted and a very pretty handsome theatre will soon be ready'.
- 1.5.8 In 1825, Rosoman's house was turned into a box office, wine room and saloon, and in 1846 a new portico was added to keep waiting audiences dry. In 1862 the theatre was described as 'brick built, slated and tiled, tastefully embellished and approached by a portico'. In 1879 the theatre was closed and heavily rebuilt. Finally the theatre, which was now derelict, was closed in 1915 (OAU 1995, p 18-19).
- 1.5.9 The present theatre was constructed in 1928-31 (OAU 1995, p 19).

## 2 AIMS

The aims of evaluation were identified in OAU 1996, Section 5 as follows:

- ◆ To establish the presence/absence of significant archaeological deposits which would be affected by the proposed development, in particular any which would merit further investigation and recording under the terms of Planning Conditions and PPG 16, paras 21-6.
- ◆ To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any such deposits.

- ◆ To establish the nature and level of the undisturbed top of natural gravel, and any overlying geological deposit, in significant parts of the site.
- ◆ To investigate the possibility that remains of further wells or conduits exist on the site (OAU 1996, 2).
- ◆ To establish whether any remains of early theatre structure could exist on the site (OAU 1996, 2-3).
- ◆ To establish whether any significant remains of Thomas Rosoman's house (theatre owner from 1746) could survive (OAU 1996, 3).
- ◆ To establish the ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits which may be affected by development;
- ◆ To make available the results of the investigation.

### 3 METHODS

#### 3.1 Excavation

- 3.1.1 Four evaluation trenches were excavated as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (OAU 1996) (Fig 1). These were located on the pavement in the angle between Arlington Way and Rosebery Avenue and to the south-west of the Theatre (Trench 1); within the present foyer (Trench 2); within the scene dock as close as practical to the auditorium wall (Trench 3) and in the small courtyard to the north-east of the Lilian Baylis Theatre (Trench 4). The precise location of each trench was determined on site in consultation with the representatives of the main contractors (Bovis), site contractors (Messrs W Long) and Theatre management. (The numbering of trenches 1 and 2 is transposed from that in the Written Scheme of Investigation.)
- 3.1.2 Trenches 1-3 inclusive were to be excavated to a depth of 1.7 m, which was the estimated depth of the natural gravel and was based upon borehole information. Trench 4 was to be excavated to a maximum depth of 2 m, because it was believed again on the basis of borehole data that the natural was at a greater depth to the north of the theatre. Trenches 2-4 were all to be 2.4 m x 1.5 m in extent. Because of the likelihood of services under the pavement outside the theatre, Trench 1 was to be 4 m x 1.5 m. In the event limited disturbance by services was encountered.
- 3.1.3 The on-site contractors were to be responsible for opening all four trenches, for cutting concrete pavements and floors and for hand excavating any modern, non-archaeologically significant deposits under archaeological supervision. Archaeological deposits were to be hand dug and recorded.

## **3.2 Recording**

- 3.2.1 Recording followed the standard OAU single context record system as outlined in the unit field manual (Wilkinson 1992) suitably modified to conform to English Heritage and Museum of London requirements. Each trench was allocated a single sequence of context numbers, contexts from individual trenches being distinguished by the addition of the trench number thus: 1/001, 1/002, etc, 2/001, 2/002, etc.
- 3.2.2 Trench plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and trench location plans at a scale of 1:100, except in the case of trench 4, where the trench plan and location was combined and drawn at a scale of 1:50. All plans were drawn on gridded permatrace. The overall location of the evaluation trenches in relation to the National Grid was recorded on the 1:1250 OS map.
- 3.2.3 Levels were related to Ordnance datum for all trenches but Trench 4, which was completely enclosed by buildings. It would only have been possible to take levels on Trench 4 through the backstage areas of both Sadlers Wells and the Lilian Baylis.
- 3.2.4 A full photographic record consisting of both black and white prints and colour slides was made.

## **3.3 Finds**

- 3.3.1 A limited range of finds was recovered from the site during excavation by both the contractors and the archaeological team. The finds consisted predominantly of ceramic building materials. From the more recent horizons excavated by the contractors a sample of finds was retained for dating purposes. From more deeply stratified layers which were excavated archaeologically all observed material was retained.
- 3.3.2 Following fieldwork all finds were cleaned, marked and bagged and subsequently quantified and assessed. The quantity of pottery was extremely limited, but nonetheless spot dating for contexts with finds has been undertaken (Appendix 3).

## **3.4 Environmental Samples**

No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.

# **4 RESULTS: GENERAL**

## **4.1 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits**

- 4.1.1 The features and deposits of archaeological interest were limited mainly to Trenches 1 and 2, located respectively to southwest of the theatre and within the foyer. Trenches 3 and 4 were by and large excavated through modern make-up. The finds recovered during the evaluation were limited and mainly comprised building materials and some clay pipes.

- 4.1.2 Trench 1 produced evidence for make-up layers containing material of the 18th- and 19th-century date. This may have been re-deposited during construction work on the present theatre in 1928-31, but modern finds were notable by their absence. The most interesting and at the same time most tantalising feature in Trench 1 was the cut (1/017) filled with rammed gravel (1/003, /004 & /006) found at the bottom of the trench. 1/017 may well be robber trench.
- 4.1.3 Trench 2 within the theatre foyer was the most interesting trench and contained three walls of belonging to two different phases as well as evidence for the demolition of earlier brick-built structures. The foundations of both these later phases of standing wall cut a rammed gravel layer (2/004).
- 4.1.4 Trench 3, located in the scene dock off Arlington Way, revealed only modern make-up deposits and a concrete pad relating to the present Sadlers Wells Theatre in constructed in 1928-31.
- 4.1.5 Trench 4 to the northeast of the Theatre, revealed material deposited during more recent works associated with the construction of the Lillian Bayliss Theatre in 1988. However, this trench did reveal some limited evidence for 19th-century activity in the form of a severely truncated pit, possibly a cess pit.

## 4.2 Presentation of Results

- 4.2.1 A description of each trench follows in section 5 (below) together with notes on test pits excavated by the contractors for engineering purposes and observations on the well located at the rear of the Stalls. A summary of all contexts appears in the Archaeological Context Inventory (Appendix 1) and a quantified list of finds recovered from Trenches 1-4 in Appendix 2. Spot dating of the pottery and a list of the clay tobacco pipes recovered during the evaluation appear in Appendices 3 and 4.
- 4.2.2 The archive and finds will be deposited with the Museum of London.

## 5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Trench 1 (Fig 2)

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was located to the south-west of the theatre on the pavement within the angle between Rosebery Avenue and Arlington Way. The trench was aligned northeast - southwest, measured 4 m x 1.6 m and was to be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.7 m. The deposits revealed were of some limited interest.
- 5.1.2 Beneath the paving slabs were two thin bedding layers consisting respectively of yellow sand over pink-brown gravel, which sealed a deposit of loose rubble (1/001). This appears to be modern infill for the pavement. Cut into this level were a linear feature (cuts 1/011=1/015) and a large disturbance (cut 1/008) which occupied the south-western portion of the trench. Apparently cut through the latter, but not clearly

discernible either in plan or section, was a trench for a cast-iron pipe. The south-western portion of the trench was not excavated to full depth. The material removed from within context 1/008 was excavated to a depth of c 0.6 to 0.7 m by the contractors under archaeological supervision. In the northern part of the trench, deposits down to the top of context 1/018 were hand dug by the contractors (Fig 2 a). Layer 1/018 was investigated and recorded archaeologically; and a further spit down to a depth of approximately 1 to 1.2 m was then hand dug by the building contractors.

- 5.1.3 Beneath layer 1/001 at the north-east end of the trench was a lens of sandy material (1/009) (Fig 2 section 1), and along the south-eastern edge of the trench was a rammed gravel layer 1/018 (Fig 2 a & section 2). The latter appears to have formed a surface, but only a limited portion survived, and it did not appear in the north section of the trench (Fig 2 section 1). 1/018 capped 1/002, which extended over the whole of the trench north of 1/008. 1/002 was a further infill deposit, which consisted of dark brown silty loam mixed with mortar and large quantities of brick and tile rubble. It was only c 0.1 to 0.2 m thick on the south-east edge of the trench, but along the north-west side 1/002 extended to the bottom of the evaluation trench. The lower portion of 1/002 was excavated as layer 1/012. It was clear that 1/002 and 1/012 formed the fill of a substantial cut (1/016), which cut into the underlying packed gravel layers (1/003, 1/004 and 1/006). This cut was exposed right at the bottom of the evaluation trench and clearly was continuing down. The precise purpose or nature of this feature cannot be determined on the evidence from the evaluation trench, but it may have been connected with the reconstruction of the theatre in 1928-31. Finds from layers 1/002 and /012 included a very small quantity of pottery. The pottery from 1/002 can be date only broadly to the period 1550-1750. The pottery from 1/012 was of 17th-century date. This material was probably residual since material of similar date was recovered from stratigraphically lower levels.
- 5.1.4 The rammed gravel beneath 1/002 was at least 0.9 m deep and formed a uniform deposit with no evidence for layers or surfaces within it. It was excavated in three spits between 36 and 42 cm deep, labelled respectively 1/003, 1/004 and 1/006. The finds within it were sparse and consisted mainly of fragments of brick and tile. The only datable finds from within the rammed gravel layer comprises a small number of potsherds and a clay tobacco pipe. 3 sherds of a vessel of fine red ware from layer 1/003 date to 1600-1750 and 2 sherds of black-glazed ware from layer 1/004 date broadly to the 17th century . Most critically the clay tobacco pipe from layer 1/004 is of mid to late 17th-century date and the Staffordshire ware sherd from layer 1/006 is 18th -century date. When spit 1/003 was removed a soil horizon (1/005) was revealed in the north-east corner of the trench (Fig 2 b). On investigation, it was shown that this layer capped the underlying natural gravel (1/010). The rammed gravel (1/003, 1/004 & 1/006) both sealed 1/005 and filled a feature 1/017 which was cut into the natural gravel. It possible that the rammed gravel layer in Trench 1 is part of the same deposit as a similar gravel layer (2/004) found in Trench 2 (5.2.5 below). Cut 1/017 may be part a robber trench for an earlier structure. The cut extended below 1.7 m and as a consequence was not bottomed. The top of the natural was encountered at 27.85 m OD at a depth of 1.25 m below pavement level.

## 5.2 Trench 2 (Fig 3)

- 5.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the entrance foyer of the theatre which opens onto Rosebery Avenue. The trench was aligned southwest - northeast and measured 2.4 m x 1.6 m. It was to be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.7 m. This was the most interesting of the four trenches investigated. The interpretation of the structures revealed is restricted by the limited quantities of datable finds, especially pottery, recovered and by the small scale of the investigations.
- 5.2.2 The concrete floor of the foyer was cut and removed by the contractors. They also had excavated, under close archaeological supervision, deposits down to a depth of approximately 0.9 m. Subsequent deposits were archaeological removed.
- 5.2.3 Beneath the concrete floor (2/001) of the foyer was a general layer of loose rubble (2/002), which also formed the upper fill of a pipe trench (2/019). The pipe (2/020) was set in concrete and ran diagonally across the south corner of the trench. Also within layer 2/002 was a steel conduit running diagonally across the trench. 2/002 sealed three walls 2/006, 2/012 and 2/016 (Fig 3 plan). Walls 2/012 and 2/016 were at a right angle to one another and bonded together and were parts of the same structure. Both were built of brick and 2/016 survived to a height of 10 courses built off a single offset course, which was laid directly on the floor of the foundation trench with no concrete or other bedding. The wall was constructed of an irregular bond of headers and stretchers and was c 0.44 m (18 in) wide. It was clearly a load bearing and probably an external wall. Only a very small section of 2/012 was revealed in the trench, but was probably at least 9 in (0.22 m) wide.
- 5.2.4 The most recent wall was 2/006 and this ran along the south-east edge of the trench. It survived as eight courses of brick resting on two offset brick foundation courses (Fig 3 section 3). It was built in a slightly irregular stretcher bond with a course constructed largely of headers two courses above the offset foundation courses. The wall must have been at least 9 in (0.22 m) wide and possibly wider if it was an external wall. Its foundation courses were built off a concrete footing (2/007). The presence of the concrete pad prevented further investigation of the foundation trench (2/017). Nonetheless it was clear that 2/017 cut through the foundation trench (2/011) of wall 2/016. The latter was at right angles to 2/006. The modern pipe trench 2/019 was cut through all three walls and had destroyed any direct evidence for the relationship between 2/016 and 2/006. The fact that the foundation trench for 2/006 cut that for 2/016 suggests that the latter was the earlier structure, and the smooth intact face of 2/006 demonstrated that it had never been bonded to 2/016. These pieces of information suggest that not only was 2/006 later than 2/016 but that it formed part of a separate structure. However, it is possible, if unlikely, that there had been a butt joint between the walls which was destroyed by the digging of the pipe trench.
- 5.2.5 The foundation trenches of walls 2/016 and 2/006 were both cut through a rammed gravel layer (2/004) which was approximately 0.5 m thick. There were no datable finds from the gravel. The deposit was capped with a sand layer (2/008) over a thin layer of silty soil (2/003). Both foundation trenches cut through layer 2/003, but it is

probable that 2/008 partially sealed the fill (2/010) of the earlier foundation trench 2/011 (Fig 3 section 1). The gravel deposit 2/004 sealed an horizon formed of a gravelly silt loam (2/013). This layer contained a single sherd of fine red ware dating to 17th- or 18th-century. Beneath layer 2/013 and running under the foundation trench (2/011) of wall 2/016 was a layer comprising crushed brick, small brick fragments and some mortar (2/014: Fig 3 sections 1 & 2). The layer was well compressed and the overlying soil horizon peeled cleanly away from it. It seems probable that the brick layer had formed a temporary surface. The fact that it was sealed well below the footings of the earlier of the walls indicate that the brick was derived from a much earlier structure, although no other evidence for such a structure was located. There is a tobacco pipe of mid to late 17th-century date came from layer 2/014 as well as fragments from bricks of smaller size than those used in either wall 2/006 or 2/016. Other dating evidence other dating evidence was not found.

- 5.2.6 Layer 2/014 sealed a thin soil horizon 2/015, which overlay a gravel layer 2/018 containing pegtile and a piece of plain floor tile. 2/018 sealed the natural gravel (2/021) and was almost certainly itself disturbed natural. The natural was at a depth of 27.72 m OD and 1.48 m below floor level.

### 5.3 Trench 3 (Fig 4)

- 5.3.1 Trench 3 was located in the scene dock to the west of the stage and adjacent to the wall of the auditorium. The trench was orientated southwest - northeast and measured 2.4 m x 1.6 m. It was to be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.7 m.
- 5.3.2 The deposits uncovered were all modern and almost certainly related to the construction of the present theatre. The trench was hand-excavated by the contractors to a depth of approximately 1.2 to 1.3 m. Beneath the concrete floor (3/001) of the scene dock two layers of loose rubble (3/002 and 3/003) were revealed. The lower layer 3/003 was more compacted, and contained more gravel and clay. 3/003 sealed the corner of a concrete pad (3/005) and a clay layer 3/004. The latter was encountered at a depth of c 1.2 m and was excavated to a depth of 1.7 m. 3/004 was devoid of finds and was certainly a natural deposit. The concrete pad was on the same orientation as the structure of the present theatre and is almost certainly part of the foundations of that building. The natural was encountered at a depth of 1.25-1.3 m below floor level and at a depth of approximately 28 m OD.

### 5.4 Trench 4 (Fig 4)

- 5.4.1 Trench 1 was located in the small garden which lies between the Lilian Baylis Theatre and the Sadlers Wells Theatre offices. The trench measured 2.4 m x 1.6 m and was to be excavated to a maximum depth of 2 m.
- 5.4.2 The concrete courtyard surface was hand cut and the underlying deposits to a depth of approximately 1.4 to 1.5 m hand dug by the contractors. Sealed within the concrete (4/001) were modern blocks. The concrete lay on a thin sand bedding layer (4/002), which sealed a large modern pit (4/006). The loose loam (4/007) fill of 4/006

contained building rubbish including plastic sheeting, paint and other tins, drinks cans and general building rubble. Pit 4/006 was cut through two thin layers, a patchy layer of dark brown clay loam (4/003=4/008) and beneath this a discontinuous layer of mixed sand, gravel and mortar (4/004=4/009).

- 5.4.3 The bulk of the fill beneath 4/004 and /009 comprised dark grey brown clay loam (4/005) with brick rubble and gravel. Finds from this material included ceramics of 19th-century date (Appendix 3). Natural gravel (4/011) was revealed beneath 4/005 at the north end of the trench at a depth of 1.3 m below the courtyard surface. The general level of the courtyard appears to be comparable with the ground level in the surrounding streets and therefore the natural is at a depth comparable to that in the other trenches. In the centre of the trench was a modern feature which could not be fully investigated, because it began to gush water when disturbed. It is likely that this represents a broken modern water or drain pipe.
- 5.4.4 At the south end of the trench and cut by the modern feature in the centre of the trench was a comparatively soft black organic deposit (4/010). This had clearly been truncated by recent activity, presumably connected with the building of the Lilian Baylis Theatre in the 1980s. The black deposit was excavated to a depth of 1.6 m. At this point, after consultation with English Heritage it was determined to excavate no further, but to probe the organic deposit to establish if possible its depth. Probing with a steel bar located a dense deposit, probably gravel, at a depth of *c* 1.8 m below the courtyard surface. The black organic deposit was about 0.4 m thick, *c* 0.6 m deep at its maximum. The finds from the organic material were very limited and included the base from a glass bottle of 19th-century date and a sherd from a porcelain saucer of 18th- or 19th-century date.

## 5.5 Engineering test pits

Two engineering test pits were excavated. Other planned test pits were abandoned because of various below ground problems.

- 5.5.1 *Test Pit 1* - The first of the two successful pits was located to the rear of the stalls in the doorway near the left rear corner. This was close to the position of the well. The pit was excavated to a depth of 1.3 m and revealed the brick and concrete footings of the present auditorium. There were five courses of brickwork built off a concrete footing approximately 0.6 m deep immediately beneath the auditorium floor. At least two courses of earlier brickwork were detected on the same alignment as the present wall beneath the concrete footing. The test pit was excavated through make-up deposits of modern rubble.
- 5.5.2 *Test Pit 2* - The second test pit was located at the right near the front of the stalls against the northeast wall of the auditorium. This was excavated to a maximum depth of at least 1.7 m, and revealed the brick foundations of the present theatre and just revealed the top of the concrete footings. The test pit was cut through modern rubble infill.



## 5.6 The Well

The well-known well located at the left rear of the stalls was viewed. The top of the well shaft proper is situated 2.4 m (8 ft) below the auditorium floor at the bottom of a modern rectangular brick access shaft. The well itself is circular, approximately 0.9 to 1 m in diameter, and survives to a depth of 1.6 m. The walls of the well are constructed of thin rough stone slabs. It is separated from the brick access shaft by a sloping concrete lip.

## 6 DISCUSSION

### 6.1 General

It must be stressed at the outset that the dating evidence recovered from the evaluation trenches was limited (see Appendices 2-4), and the scale of the trenches small. This limits the conclusions that can be drawn from the fieldwork evidence and precludes confident interpretations. There was no evidence either structural or artifactual for prehistoric, Romano-British or medieval activity. Potentially the most interesting evidence was found in Trench 2 (see 5.2 above).

### 6.2 Evidence for early structures (Trenches 1 and 2)

6.2.1 In Trench 2 there was a deposit (2/014) comprised of crushed brick and mortar and including fragments of smaller earlier bricks predating the earliest surviving walls (2/012 & /016). This provides some evidence for the existence of earlier brick-built structures. 2/014 is presumably a demolition deposit and may be all that is left of any earlier structures. A clay tobacco pipe of mid to late 17th-century date from the deposit gives an indication of the earliest possible date for the deposit. The only other dating evidence is a sherd of post-Medieval fine red ware from layer 2/013 which seals 2/014. This sherd can only be dated broadly to the 17th or 18th centuries. It would be tempting to associate deposit 2/014 with the rebuilding of the theatre by Rosoman in 1764, and to suggest that it represents material derived from the demolition of pre-existing structures.

6.2.2 In Trench 1 the earliest feature was a substantial feature (1/017) cut into the natural gravel and filled by rammed gravel (1/003, /004 & /006). The datable finds suggest that the infilling took place in 18th century (see 6.3 below). 1/017 may be the result of the robbing out of earlier structures.

### 6.3 Infill deposits (Trenches 1 and 2)

6.3.1 In Trench 2 overlying the crushed brick layer (2/014) was a soil horizon (2/013) sealed by a deposit of rammed gravel (2/004). The gravel was probably deliberate infill or levelling and it is likely that the soil horizon (2/013) was re-deposited. The foundation trenches of the surviving brick walls were cut through this deposit.

6.3.2 A similar, though deeper gravel deposit (1/003, /004 & /006) was located in Trench 1. In this instance the gravel not only served to raise the ground level but also appeared to fill a substantial cut feature (1/017) in the natural gravel (6.2.2 above). The dating evidence from Trench 1 consists of a few sherds of 17th and early 18th-century date and suggests that the gravel was deposited in the 18th century. A similar date would be acceptable for the deposition of 2/004. A potsherd from 2/013 beneath 2/004 can be dated between 1600 and 1800.

#### 6.4 18th- and early 19th-century structures (Trench 2)

6.4.1 Trench 2 contained walls of two different phases, these were 2/012 and /016 and the later wall 2/006. All these walls are built in standard 9 inch brick. There is little finds evidence to date the walls closely. A comparison with brick sizes in local buildings of known date would indicate when standard 9 inch brick became available and would help to establish some parameters for dating the walls.

6.4.2 Wall 2/016 is a substantial load bearing wall and as such possibly an external wall. The size of 2/012 is not certain because it lay outside the evaluation trench with only its west face visible in the section. It is possible that 2/012 and /016 originally formed part of Rosoman's house built in 1764, but, it is conceivable that they relate to later building activity on the theatre attested in 1778 and 1802 (see above 1.6.8). However, it would seem that this later activity was limited the interior of the theatre, which was at this date a linked but separate structure from Rosoman's house. The limited exposure of the brick-built structure in the evaluation did not give any indication of the layout of the building. A plan of the structure would clarify its form and might facilitate a better estimate of its date.

6.4.3 The later wall 2/006 formed one long side of Trench 2. It was built off a concrete footing, constructed of headers and stretchers and probably formed a load bearing or exterior wall. We know that Rosoman's house was converted into a box office, wine room and saloon in 1825 (see above 1.6.9), and that in 1846 a new portico was added to the theatre. Prints of the theatre of late 18th- and early 19th-century date show the barn-like theatre with Rosoman's house attached. They consistently show the house with a bay front, mansard roof and doorway on the southwest side. On the north side of the house and against the side of the theatre a covered walkway with a pitched roof is shown. This was the entrance to the theatre. There is a later 19th century print which shows the house with no bay, with two mansard roofs with a valley between, and a flat-roofed portico fronted by arches on the southwest end of the theatre instead of the original doorway to the house. This must be the portico recorded as being added in 1846. There appears to have been significant remodelling in the mid 19th century, and it would tempting to see wall 2/006 as part of this work. Again it should be stressed that in light of the limited amount of structural evidence revealed in plan in Trench 2 and the very limited dating evidence recovered generally, any conclusions are extremely tentative.

#### 6.4 19th-century and later deposits (Trench 4)

A truncated pit, probably of 19th-century date, was located in Trench 4. The fact that it survived, albeit heavily truncated, indicates the potential for survival of other features, despite of recent building activity connected with the Lilian Baylis Theatre. Later deposits all relate to the construction of the present theatre and are of extremely limited interest.

### 7 CONCLUSIONS: IMPACT OF DEMOLITION AND REBUILDING AND OPTIONS FOR MITIGATION

#### 7.1 General

The evaluation showed that the archaeological potential of the site in general terms was limited, but also indicated that there was no massive disturbance of the natural gravels, although there was evidence of truncation. It is possible that pits and other features cut into the gravel may be located re-development work. One part of the site (the foyer and adjacent areas) has been highlighted as having greater archaeological potential with surviving structural features. A mitigation strategy to accommodate this fact is outlined below in broad terms.

#### 7.2 Pavement Area to the south of Sadlers Wells between Arlington Way and Rosebery Avenue (Trench 1)

7.2.1 *Archaeological potential* - The archaeological evaluation indicates that the potential of this area is limited. Two episodes of activity were identified, the earliest being the cut into the natural gravel observed in the bottom of the trench. If this were to be confirmed as part of a robber trench it could provide evidence of earlier structures and would be of local and potentially regional interest. The second major event is the infill episode which can be dated to the 18th century and probably links with the similar episode identified in Trench 2 (see 7.3). This is likely to be of only local interest, but understanding of this activity could contribute to understanding the development of the topography of the site.

7.2.2 *Mitigation* - Both of the episodes identified in Trench 1 can best be understood if evidence was exposed over a large area. In the case of the possible robber trench this would permit any plan to be recovered. Similarly, the infill episode could be best understood if further investigations were undertaken in conjunction with investigations in the area of the foyer to establish the extent and nature of the infill episode. However, in view of the limited potential of the data which might be recovered it is perhaps more valid in this area to undertake a watching brief during excavations for the new basements. Following demolition, a watching brief during early stages of excavation (to a depth of 3 m below present ground surface) would be the appropriate response.

### **7.3 Foyer and Adjacent Areas fronting Rosebery Avenue (Trench 2)**

7.3.1 *Archaeological potential* - The archaeological evaluation indicates that this area has archaeological potential. Three, or four, episodes of activity were identified. The earliest episode is only indirectly evidenced by the demolition layer (2/014) indicating the probable existence of early brick-built structures. It is possible, but perhaps unlikely, that actual structures survive. Any surviving structures would be of regional interest. The demolition of these early buildings was followed by the deliberate deposition of a rammed gravel layer. This event can be dated to the 18th century and should probably be linked a similar episode identified in Trench 1 (see 7.2 above). The third and fourth episodes are represented by two phases of surviving brick walls. These must have formed parts of earlier theatres or associated structures. The earlier phase of walls may be surviving parts of the house built by Rosoman in the 18th century. Potentially these structures are of regional importance and of significance in understanding the history of the theatre. The second phase of brick wall clearly represents a separate structure. The value of the surviving evidence for both phases appears to be restricted by the lack of associated deposits such as floors. It may only be possible to establish building plans.

7.3.2 *Mitigation* - The main episodes identified in Trench 2 can best be understood if the evidence was exposed over a larger area. To establish the survival, or otherwise, of any early brick-built structures, it would be necessary to open a sizeable area. This would permit the recovery of the plan of any surviving structure. The infill episode would be best understood if a larger area were opened. The later phases of surviving brick wall can be best understood in plan. To this end the present foyer and an adjacent area to the north could be stripped and archaeologically investigated to establish plans of the brick-built structures, to recover dating evidence and to establish whether or not evidence for earlier structures survives.

### **7.4 Scene Dock and Adjacent Areas fronting Arlington Way (Trench 3)**

No archaeological potential was revealed in evaluation. There was nevertheless little evidence in the evaluation trench to suggest that the natural had been badly disturbed or truncated, and the possibility remains that features cutting the natural gravel may be uncovered. A watching brief during early stages of excavation to a depth of 3 m below present ground surface would be appropriate response.

### **7.5 North of Lilian Baylis Theatre (Trench 4)**

Limited archaeological potential was revealed in evaluation. There was clear evidence for the truncation or disturbance of the natural gravel, but also evidence for the survival of features cut into the natural. We understand that this area is not now to be developed as basements, in which case further archaeological work may not be required. Confirmation of the impact of any development on this area is needed.

## 7.6 Standing Structure

Parts of the earlier theatre structures are said to be incorporated within part of the present theatre adjacent to the Well Room. These will be destroyed during re-development work and therefore will require archaeological recording prior to demolition.

## 7.7 The Well and associated structures

In addition to the evidence recovered during evaluation, documentary evidence suggests that water culverts supplying monastic establishments may have crossed the site. It has been suggested that the well at the rear of the stalls is in fact a sump for just such as culvert, and it is possible that other evidence may be recovered. The areas in which such evidence might survive are concentrated mainly within the foyer area and the area to the south and southwest of the stalls generally. The watching brief suggested for the areas to west and south of the stalls and the further excavation in the area of the foyer should be sufficient to recover any structural evidence which may be revealed.

## Archive

### Quantification

Material	Quantity	
<i>Paper/drawn archive</i>		
Context checklists	4 sheets	I ring binder
Context records	54 sheets	
Levels record	1 sheet	
Photographic records	3 sheets	
Drawing record	2 sheets	
Photographs:		
B and W print film	2 films (negatives and contact sheets)	
Colour slide	1 film	
Drawings:		
Plans (10)	9 sheets	
Sections (10)	8 sheets	
Miscellaneous	2 sheets	
Matrices (4)	3 sheets	
Pottery spot-dating sheets	10 sheets	

Material	Quantity	
<i>Finds</i>		
Pottery	20 sherds	1 x box (MoLAS)
Ceramic building materials	41 fragments	1 x box (MoLAS)
cu alloy	1 coin	1 x box
fe	2 fragments	
Clay tobacco pipes	12 fragments	1 x box (MoLAS)
Animal bone	6 fragments	
Miscellaneous finds including, vessel glass	13 fragments	

The finds and paper archive from the evaluation are currently held by the OAU. Following any further archaeological fieldwork the complete archive will be deposited with the Museum of London.

### Bibliography and references

- OAU 1995 *Sadlers Wells Theatre, Islington, London. Archaeological Desktop Report*, for Sadlers Wells Theatre Trust, (August 1995)
- OAU 1996 *Redevelopment of Sadlers Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, Islington, London EC1. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation under condition of Planning Consent*, for Sadlers Wells Theatre Trust, (1995, revised March 1996)

## Appendix 1 - Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Context	Type	Relationships	Depth	Width/ extent	Comments	Dating evidence (see Appendix 2 for finds list and Appendices 3 & 4 for dating)
	001	deposit	cut by 011=015 & 008, below 009, above 018	0.24 - 0.62 m	-	makeup below pavement	1 x stoneware bottle sherd, 19th C 2 x clay pipes late 17th/early 18th C
	002	deposit	below 018, above 003, same as 012	0.18 m	-	silt loam with brick and tile rubble	1 x Borderware sherd, 1550-1750 3 x clay pipes, first half 18th C
	003	deposit	below 002, fill of 017, same as 004 & 006	0.42 m	-	rammed gravel	3 x post Med sherds, 1600-1750
	004	deposit	fill of 017, same as 003 & 006	0.36 m	-	rammed gravel	2 x post Med sherds, 1600-1700 1 x clay pipe, mid to late 17th C
	005	deposit	cut by 017, above 010	0.12 m	0.76+ x 0.68+ m	soil horizon	
	006	deposit	fill of 017, same as 003 and 004	0.4 m	-	rammed gravel	
	007	deposit	fill of 008	excav. to 0.5 - 0.6 m	-	dark brown clay loam	
	008	cut	cuts 001, filled by 007	-	-	large cut feature	
	009	deposit	cut by 011=015, above 001	0.15 m	-	mortar and gravel lens	
	010	deposit	below 005	-	-	natural gravel	
	011	cut	cuts 001, filled by 013, same as 015	0.42 m	w 0.7 m	trench	
	012	deposit	same as 002, fill of 016	excav. to 1.2 m	-	silt loam with brick and tile rubble	2 x post Med sherds, 1600-1700
	013	deposit	fill of 011, same as 014	0.4 m	-	grey brown silt loam	
	014	deposit	fill of 015, same as 013	0.4 m	-	grey brown silt loam	
	015	cut	cuts 009, filled by 014, same as 011	-	w 0.7 m	trench	

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Trench	Context	Type	Relationships	Depth	Width/ extent	Comments	Dating evidence (see Appendix 2 for finds list and Appendices 3 & 4 for dating)
	016	cut	cuts 003, filled by 012 and 002	1.4 m	-	filled by rubble and soil	
	017	cut	filled by 003, 004 & 004, cuts 005	excav. to 0.5 - 0.6 m	-	possible robber trench filled by rammed gravel	
	018	deposit	below 001, above 002	0.06 - 0.15 m	-	compacted gravel layer, possible surface	
<b>2</b>							
	001	deposit	above 002	0.2 m	-	concrete floor	
	002	deposit	below 001, above 020,	0.2 - 0.4 m	-	floor make-up of loose rubble	
	003	deposit	below 008, (possibly cut by 011), above 009	0.05 m	0.7+ x 1.3+ m	silty loam	
	004	deposit	below 009, above 013	0.5 m	0.7+ x 1.3+ m	rammed gravel deposit	
	005	deposit	fill of 017, above 006, cut by 019	0.4 - 0.5 m	0.8 m	mixed sand, mortar and loam	
	006	structure	butted by 005, above 007	ht 0.75 m	ex 2.4 m	brick wall standing to height of 8 courses on two offset courses	
	007	structure	below 006, fill of 017	-	w 0.8+ m	concrete footing for 2/006	
	008	deposit	cut by 017, above 003 (& possibly 010)	0.08 m	-	thin yellow/orange sand deposit	
	009	deposit	below 003, above 004	0.1 m	-	lens of pale yellow to white mortar and sand	
	010	deposit	cut by 017, (possibly below 008), above 012 & 016	0.75 m	-	silty loam	



Trench	Context	Type	Relationships	Depth	Width/ extent	Comments	Dating evidence (see Appendix 2 for finds list and Appendices 3 & 4 for dating)
	011	cut	cuts 003 (& possibly 008), filled by 010, 016 & 012	0.75 m	w 0.8+ m	foundation trench for 2/012 and 016	
	012	structure	below 010, bonded to 016, fill of 011	-	w 0.2+ m	brick wall bonded to 2/016	
	013	deposit	below 004, above 014	0.3 m	-	silty loam - soil horizon?	1 post Med sherd, 1600-1800
	014	deposit	below 013, above 015	0.06 m	-	crushed brick and mortar	1 x clay pipe, mid to late 17th C
	015	deposit	below 014, above 018	0.2 m	0.7+ x 1.3+ m	silt loam - soil horizon	
	016	structure	below 010, bonded to 012, fill of 011	ht 0.85 m	w 0.44 m ex 1.8 m	brick wall standing to height of 10 courses on one offset course	
	017	cut	cuts 008, filled by 005, 006 & 007	0.6 m	0.8 m	foundation trench for 006	
	018	deposit	below 015, above 021	0.1 m	0.7+ x 1.3+ m	disturbed natural gravel	
	019	cut	cuts 005, filled by 020	-	w 0.4 m	pipe trench	
	020	deposit	fill of 019, below 002	-	-	ceramic pipe set in concrete	
	021	deposit	below 018	-	-	natural gravel	
<b>3</b>							
	001	deposit	above 002	0.15 m	-	concrete floor	
	002	deposit	below 001, above 003	0.64 - 0.72 m	-	rubble make-up layer	
	003	deposit	below 002, above 004 and 005	0.42 m	-	rubble make-up layer	
	004	deposit	below 003 and 005	-	-	natural clay	
	005	structure	below 003, above 004	0.1 - 0.15 m	0.8+ x 0.5+ m	concrete pad	

Trench	Context	Type	Relationships	Depth	Width/ extent	Comments	Dating evidence (see Appendix 2 for finds list and Appendices 3 & 4 for dating)
4							
	001	deposit	above 002	0.2 m	-	concrete path/surface	
	002	deposit	below 001, above 007	0.04 m	-	bedding for concrete	
	003	deposit	cut by 006, above 004	0.02 - 0.04 m	-	silt loam - redeposited topsoil?	
	004	deposit	below 003, above 005	0.16 m	-	light brown/yellow gravel and mortar mix	
	005	deposit	below 004 & 009, above 010	0.9 m	-	clay loam, with some brick and tile - modern infill	6 x post Med sherds, 1800-1900 1 x clay pipe, mid to late 17th C
	006	cut	cuts 003 & 008, filled by 007	0.9 m	w 1.38 m	modern builders' rubbish pit	
	007	deposit	below 002, fill of 006	0.9 m	-	fill containing paint tins, drinks cans, polythene sheet, etc	
	008	deposit	cut by 006, above 009	0.14 m	-	silt loam - redeposited topsoil	
	009	deposit	below 008, above 005	0.06 m	-	light brown/yellow snad and mortar mix	
	010	deposit	below 005, fill of 012	0.68 m	-	black organic rich deposit, possible cess pit fill	1 x English porcelain sherd, 1700- 1900
	011	deposit	cut by 012 & 013	-	-	natural gravel	
	012	cut	cuts 011, filled by 010	-	0.9+ x 0.7+ m	19th-century cess pit?.	
	013	deposit	fills 014, sealed by 005?	-	w 0.6 m	fill of modern disturbance - probable pipe trench - not fully explored	
	014	cut	cuts 010?, filled by 013	-	w 0.6 m	modern disturbance	

## Appendix 2 - Context finds list by material

Trench & Context	Finds				
	Ceramics (see Appendix 3)	Building materials	Clay tobacco pipes (see Appendix 4)	Animal bone	Other
<b>Trench 1</b>					
1/001	1 x sherd - English stoneware (ENST) bottle	-	1 x bowl 1 x stem with base of bowl	-	vessel glass - 1 x bottle neck
1/002	1 x sherd - Borderware (BORDB) dish	brick - 2 x uncertain size roof tile - 1 x pegtile	3 x bowls 1 x bowl, fragt	-	vessel glass - 1 x sherd, bottle glass
1/003	3 x sherds - post Med fine red ware (PMFR)	-	-	-	-
1/004	2 x sherds - post-Med black-glazed ware (PMBL)	brick - 1 x (? x w 100 x th 65) 1 x (? x w 110 x th 65) 2 x uncertain size roof tile - 2 x pegtile 1 x ? uncertain	1 x bowl	-	vessel glass - 2 x sherds, bottle glass  coin - small cu alloy, illegible
1/006	1 x sherd - Staffordshire speckled/ mottled glaze (STMO) tankard	roof tile - 2 x pegtile	-	1 fragt (unid.)	-
1/012	3 x sherds - 2 x post Med black glazed ware (PMBL) 1 x post Med red ware (PMR)	roof tile - 1 x pantile	-	1 rib (unid.)	vessel glass - 1 x sherd  iron - corroded fragt
1/us	1 x sherd - post Med black glazed ware (PMBL)	roof tile - 1 x pantile	-	1 shaft fragt (unid.)	-

Trench & Context	Finds				
	Ceramics (see Appendix 3)	Building materials	Clay tobacco pipes (see Appendix 4)	Animal bone	Other
<b>Trench 2</b>					
2/002	-	-	-	3 x frags - 1 horse metacarpal, 1 sheep metacarpal, 1 large bird bone (chicken/ turkey)	iron - bracket or fitting
2/010	-	roof tile - 3 x pegtile	-	-	-
2/013	1 x sherd - post Med fine red ware (PMFR)	brick - 2 x uncertain size roof tile - 1 x pegtile	-	5 x frags - 1 x sheep metacarpal; cow tooth (loose); 2 ribs (unid.); 1 fragt with cutmarks (unid)	-
2/014	-	brick - 1 x (? x w 95 x th 50) 1 x (? x w? x th 62) floortile - 1 x plain roof tile - 3 x pegtile	1 x bowl and stem 2 x stem frags	-	-
2/015	-	roof tile - 4 x pegtile (incl 1 peg hole)	-	-	-
2/018	-	floortile - 1 x plain ? (traces of glaze) roof tile - 7 x pegtile (incl 1 peg hole)	-	-	-
<b>Trench 3</b>					
No finds recovered. 19th and 20th century bottles observed.					

Trench & Context	Finds				
	Ceramics (see Appendix 3)	Building materials	Clay tobacco pipes (see Appendix 4)	Animal bone	Other
<b>Trench 4</b>					
4/005	6 x sherds - 2 x post Med red ware (PMR) 1 x post Med fine red ware (PMFR) 1 x Creamware (CREA) 1 x pearlware, transfer printed (CREA/TPO) plate 1 x English porcelain (ENPO)	<i>rooftile</i> - 1 x pegtile	1 x bowl and stem	1 x fragt - radius of cow	-
4/010	1 x sherd - English Porcelain (ENPO) saucer	<i>brick</i> - 2 x uncertain size (1 ?burnt)	1 x stem fragt	1 x fragt rib (cow or horse)	<i>vessel glass</i> - 1 x sherd, indented bottle base

Appendix 3 - Pottery spot-dating

Trench & Context	Quantity	Fabric	Form	No of sherds	Weight	Earliest date	Latest date	Comments	Date range
1/001	S	ENST	BOTT	1	38	1800	1900	English Stoneware bottle	1800-1900
1/002	S	BORDB	DISH	1		1550	1750	Borderware - brown glaze flanged dish. More likely to 17th-century form	1550-1750
1/003	S	PMFR	CAUL	3	26	1600	1800	Post-Med fine red ware - all one vessel	1600-1750
1/004	S	PMBL	TANK	2	2	1600	1700	Post-Med black-glazed ware - all one vessel	1600-1700
1/006	S	STMO	TANK	1	6	1700	1800	Staffordshire speckled/ mottled glaze tankard	1700-1800
1/012	S	PMBL	TANK	2	2	1600	1700	Post-Med black-glazed ware	1600-1700
1/us	S	PMR	-	1	2	1600	1800	Post-Med red ware	
1/us	S	PMBL	-	1	2	1600	1700	Post-Med black-glazed ware	1600-1700
2/013	S	PMFR	CAUL?	1	16	1600	1800	Post-Med fine red ware	1600-1800
4/005	S	PMR	PAN	1	74	1600	1800	Post-Med red ware - large pancheon rim	1800-1900
		PMR	-	1	4	1600	1800	Post-Med red ware	
		PMFR	-	1	24	1600	1800	Post-Med fine red ware - base of deep bowl/pan Creamware	
		CREA	-	1	6	1770	1900	Pearlware, transfer printed	
		PEARL/TPO	PLATE	1	8	1800	1900	English porcelain	
		ENPO	-	1	2	1700	1900		
4/010	S	ENPO	saucer	1	6	1700	1900	English porcelain	1700-1900

## Appendix 4 - Clay tobacco pipes from Sadlers Wells

### Introduction

The preservation of the clay pipes is notable. Few broken bowl fragments were noted or recovered during excavation. The pipes from recovered from layers excavated by contractors (indicated by \* in the table) are only a sample of those found.

### Dating

The dating is based upon bowl shape and size, and heel or spur form. No stamped pipes were found during excavation.

No	Trench/ Context	Description	Dating
1	1/001*	large angled bowl, no milling and with flat low heel	late 17th/early 18th C
2		stem with fragment of bowl, and small flat heel	early 18th C
3	1/002*	large angled bowl, no milling and flat heel	first half 18th C
4		as above	first half 18th C
5		as above, but with lower heel	first half 18th C
6		fragt of bowl base with ?small heel or spur	undiagnostic
7	1/004	angled barrel-shaped bowl with line around top, small heel or spur (similar to example from 2/014)	mid to late 17th C
8	2/014	barrel-shaped bowl, with line around top, and small heel or spur, much of stem intact (similar to example from 1/004)	mid to late 17th C
9		stem fragt	undiagnostic
10		stem fragt	undiagnostic

GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation Excavation Watching brief  
Other (please specify)

2) LOCATION

Borough: ISLINGTON

Site address: ROSEBURY AVENUE, EC1R 4TN

Site Name: SADDLER'S WELLS THEATRE Site Code: ROA 96

Nat. Grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 3145 8284

limits of site: a) 3144 8283 b) 3146 8283  
c) 3145 8288 d) 3148 8291

3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Address: 46, HYTHE BRIDGE STREET, OXFORD OX1 2EP

Site director/supervisor: I. R. SCOTT Project Manager: B. DURHAM

Funded by: SADDLER'S WELLS TRUST LTD

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 25/03/96 Date finished: 02/04/96

Fieldwork previously notified? YES/NO  
Fieldwork will continue? YES/NO/NOT KNOWN

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

- Palaeolithic Roman
- Mesolithic Saxon (pre-AD 1066)
- Neolithic Medieval (AD 1066-1485)
- Bronze Age Post-Medieval
- Iron Age Unknown



6) PERIOD SUMMARIES Use headings for each period (ROMAN; MEDIEVAL; etc.), and additional sheets if necessary.

POST-MEDIEVAL

Trench 1 (SW of theatre) (NGR TQ 31443 82837)

Evidence for possible robber trench cut into natural gravel. This was filled with rammed gravel deposit. Dating evidence suggests 18th-century. Modern (20th century) deposits sealed rammed gravel.

Trench 2 (foyer of theatre) (NGR TQ 31456 82844)

Further evidence for rammed gravel deposit, here sealing a crushed brick layer. The latter has a terminus post-quem of 17th or 18th century based on a single pot sherd.

Cutting the rammed gravel were two foundation trenches for brick-built walls. These are at right angles to each other and represent two phases of building pre-dating the present theatre. They are not closely datable, and are sealed by modern infill deposits.

Trench 4 (N of Lillian Baylis Theatre) (NGR TQ 31477 82912)

Cutting natural gravel was a truncated 19th-century cess pit. This was sealed by modern (c. 1988) building debris.

Trench 3 (Scene dock) (NGR TQ 3142 82878)

20th-century make-up deposit only.

7) NATURAL (state if not observed; please DO NOT LEAVE BLANK)

Type: BOYNE HILL GRAVEL

Height above Ordnance Datum: c. 28 m.

## 8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

a) Please indicate those categories still in your possession:

NOtes

PLans

PHotos

NGatives

SLides

COrrispondence

MScripts (unpub reports, etc)

b) All/~~some~~ records ~~have been~~/will be deposited in the following museum, records office etc:

MUSEUM OF LONDON

c) Approximate year of transfer: 1996/97

d) Location of any copies:

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: YES / NO (will be done)

~~If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming?: YES / NO~~

## 9) LOCATION OF FINDS

a) In your possession (delete as appropriate): ALL / ~~SOME~~ / ~~NONE~~b) All/~~some~~ finds ~~have been~~/will be deposited with the following museum/other body:

MUSEUM OF LONDON

c) Approximate year of transfer: 1996/97

## 10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

- OAN 1995 Sadler's Wells Theatre, Islington, London. Archaeological Desktop Report for Sadler's Wells Theatre Trust (August 1995)
- OAN 1996 Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue Islington. Archaeological Evaluation Report (April 1996)

SIGNED:

IR Scott

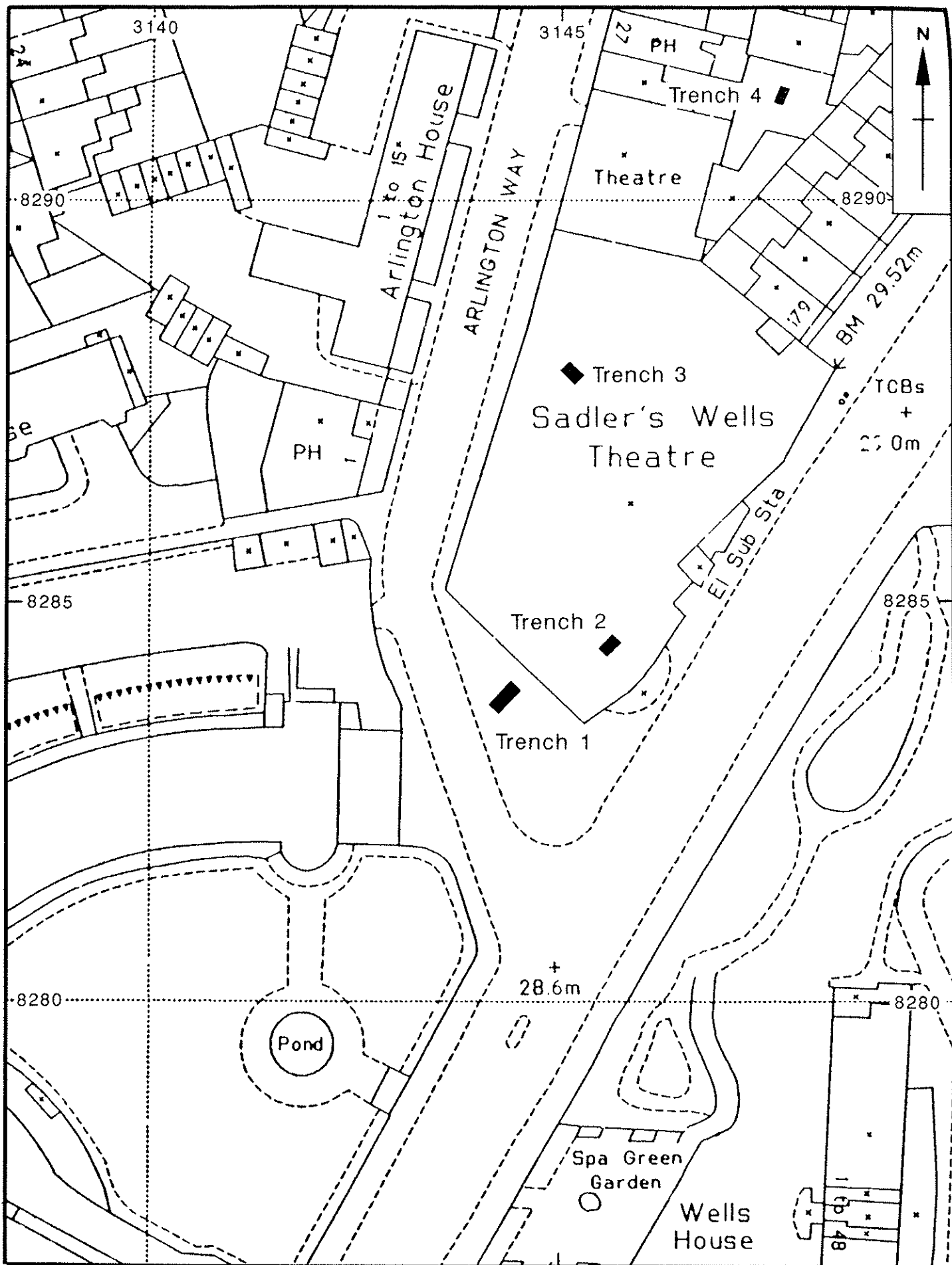
DATE:

1st May 1996

NAME (Block capitals):

IAN R. SCOTT

Please return the completed form to The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record, English Heritage London Region, 30 Warwick Street, London W1R 5RD. Tel 071-973-3731/3779 (direct dial).



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scale 1:625

Figure 1

### Trench 1

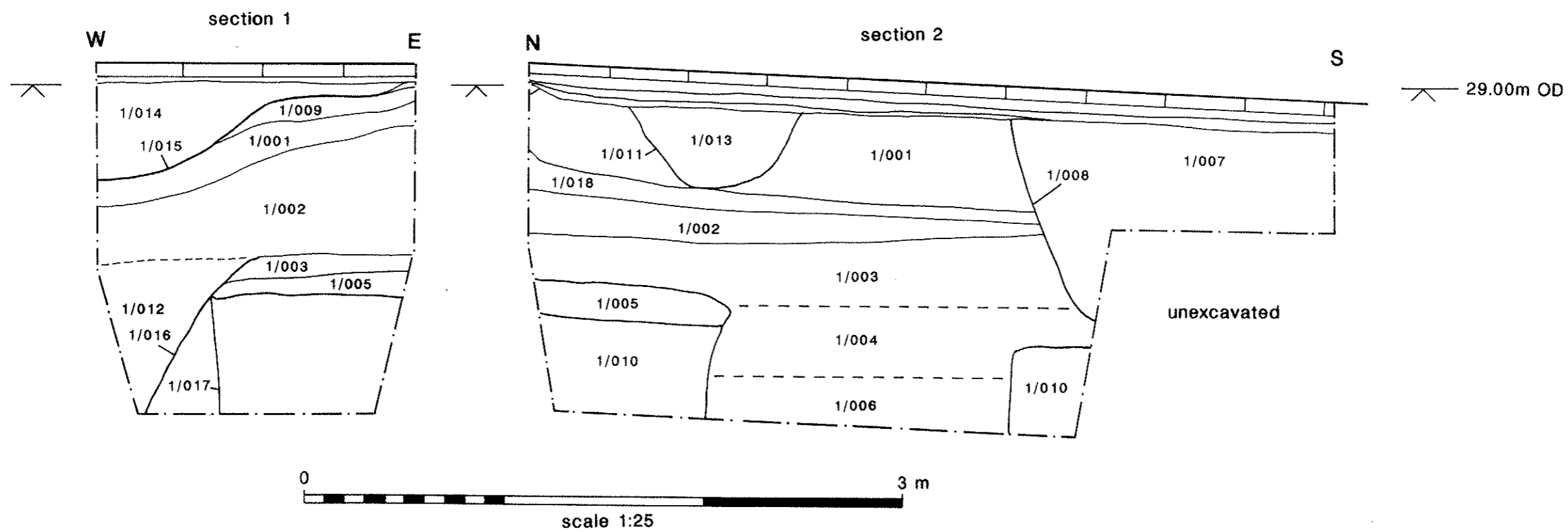
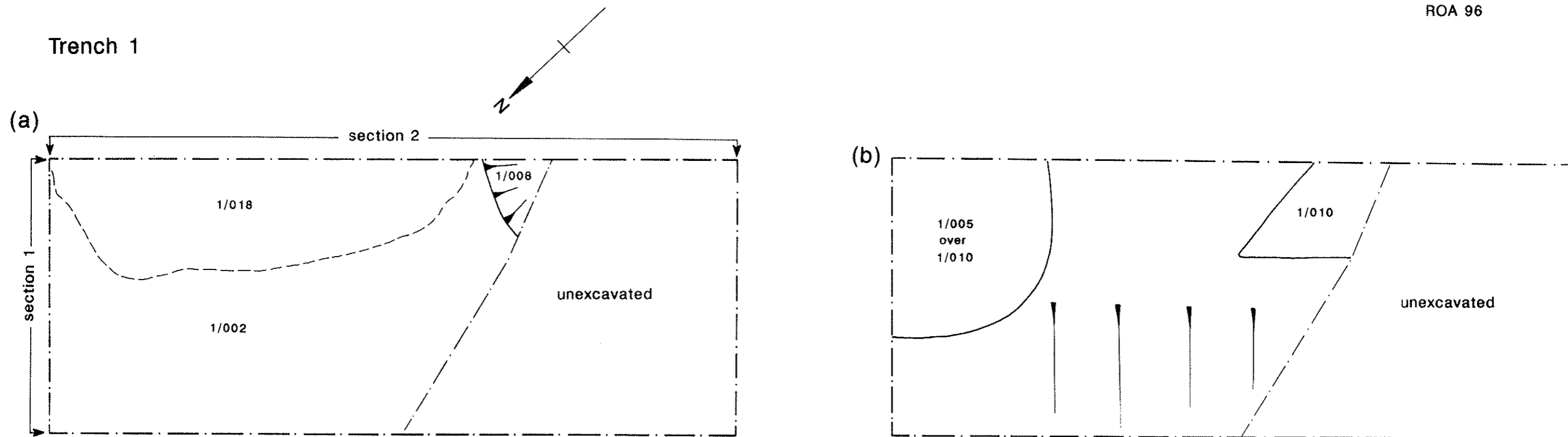


Figure 2

Trench 2

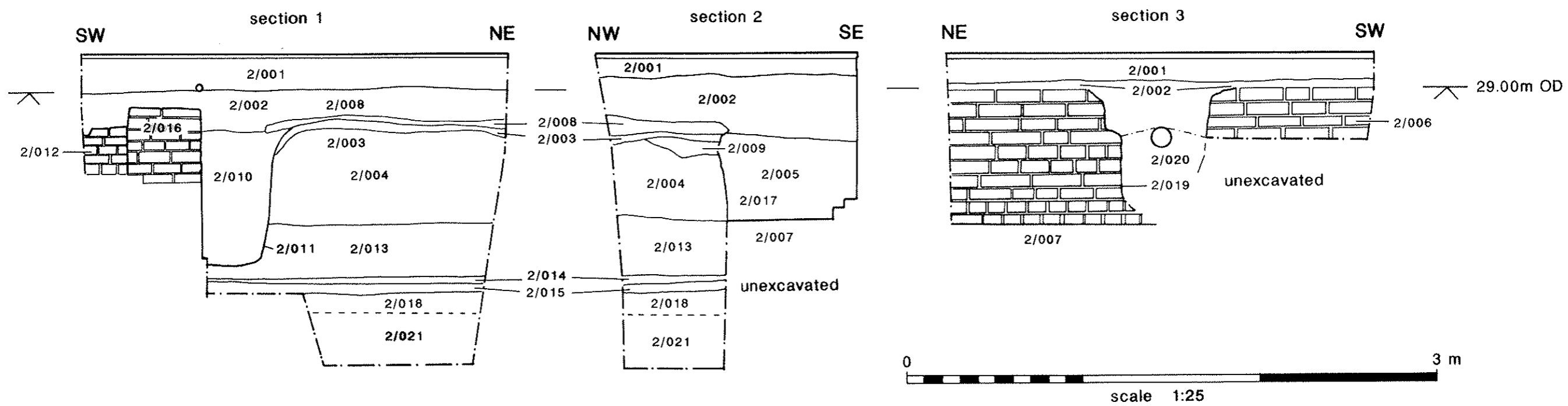
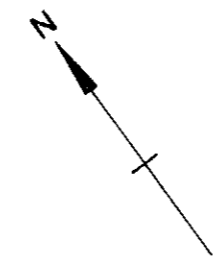
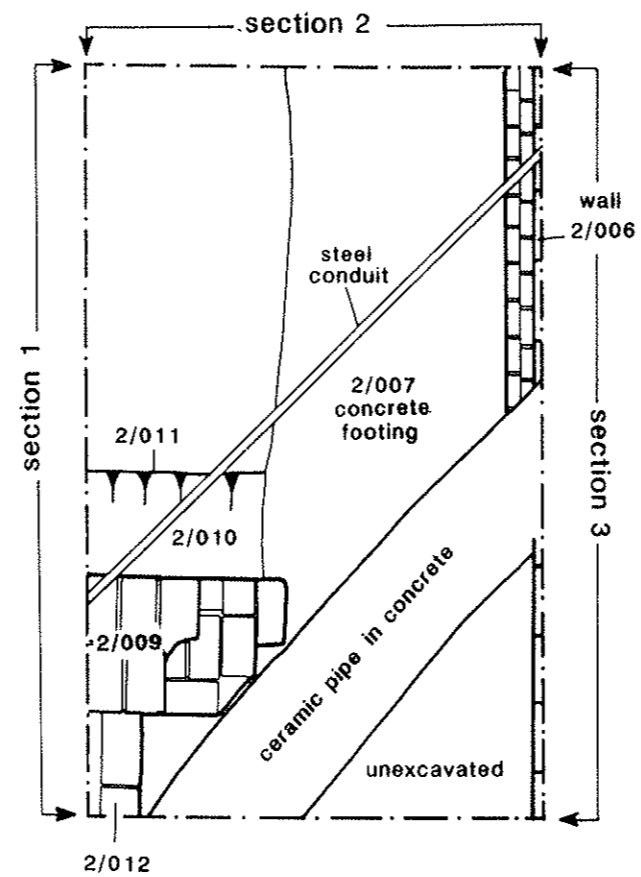
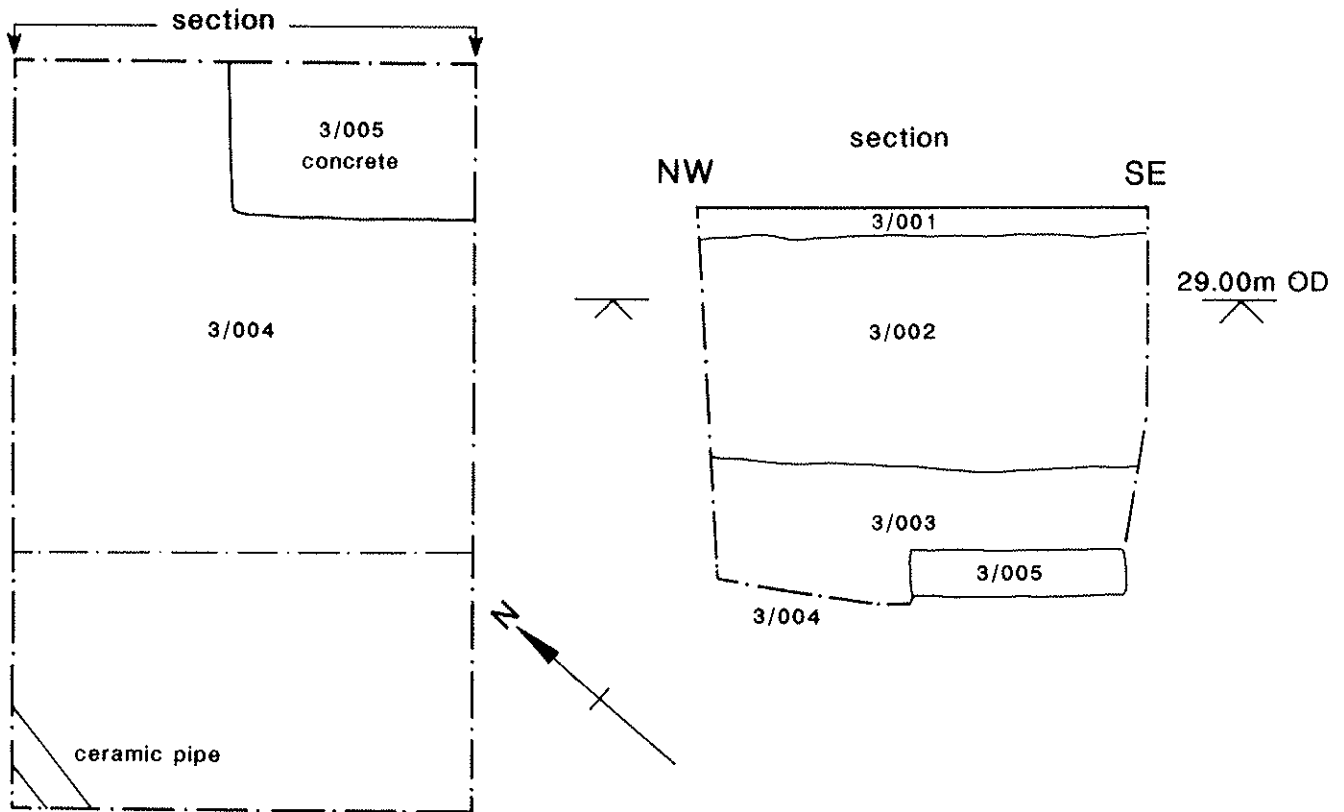


Figure 3

### Trench 3



### Trench 4

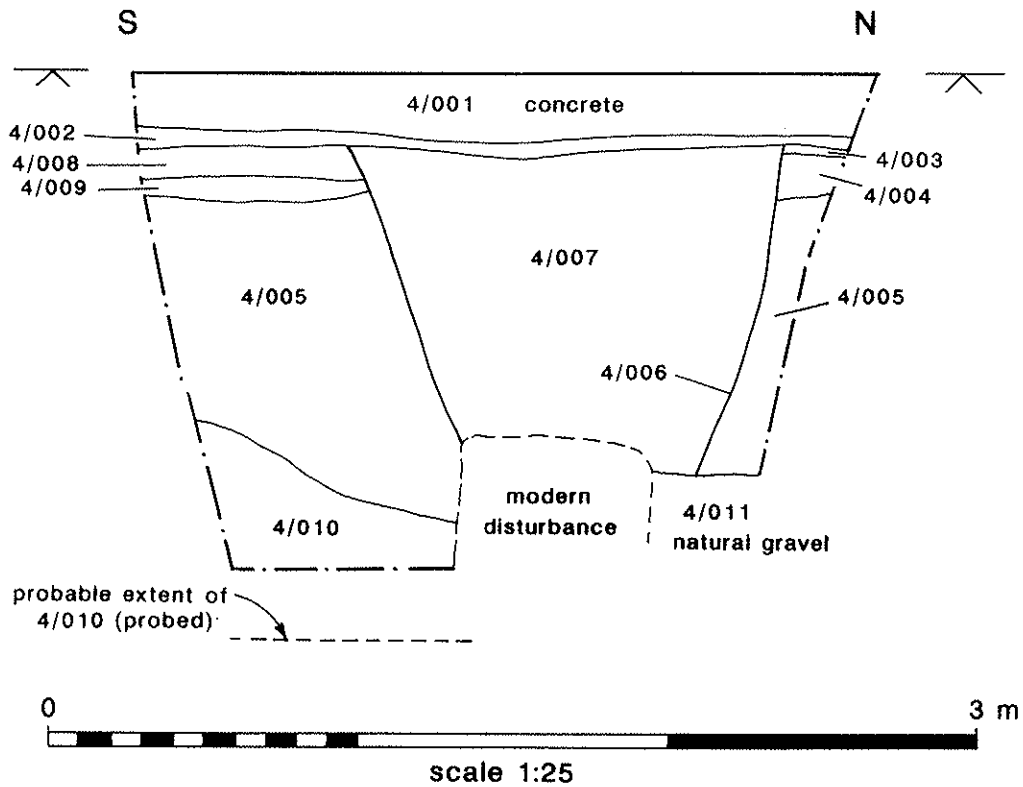


Figure 4



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