

South London Hospital for Women Clapham SW12



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

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Healey and Baker**

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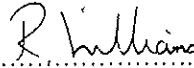
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Prepared by: H. Lamdin-Whymark
Position: Research Officer
Date: 23th March 2003

Checked by: A. Holmes
Position: Contracts Officer
Date: 31th March 2003

Approved by: R. Williams
Position: Operations Director
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Signed.....

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Illustrated by Roz Smith

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Oxford Archaeology

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Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

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South London Hospital for Women, Clapham, SW 12***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION*****CONTENTS**

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Location and scope of work	1
1.2 Geology and topography	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
2 Evaluation Aims	1
3 Evaluation Methodology	2
3.1 Scope of fieldwork	2
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording.....	2
3.3 Finds	2
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence.....	2
3.5 Presentation of results	2
4 Results: General.....	3
4.1 Trench descriptions	3
5 Results: Finds	3
5.1 Finds general	3
6 Discussion And Interpretation.....	3
6.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	3
6.2 Overall interpretation	4
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	5
Appendix 2 Bibliography and references.....	6
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	6

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location map
 Fig. 2 Trench location plan and features
 Fig. 3 Trench plans

SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a field evaluation on the site of South London Hospital for Women on behalf of Cushman and Wakefield, and Healey and Baker. The evaluation revealed a series of brick walls and paths, probably relating to property boundaries and garden features predating the constructing of the hospital building. Overlying these walls made ground was encountered, representing the landscaping of the former hospitals grounds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In March 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at South London Womens Hospital (Fig.1) on behalf of Cushman and Wakefield, and Healey and Baker in respect of a planning application for the conversion of the hospital to a Class A1 food store, flats and associated car park (Planning Reference 95/2531 21064). The site lies in an area of archaeological potential and therefore Greater London Archaeology Advisory Services (GLAAS), on behalf of London Borough of Lambeth, required an archaeological field evaluation, in line with PPG 16 and local planning policies.

1.1.2 The development area is located at the site of the former South London Hospital for Women, close to the junction of Clapham Common South side (A24) and Hazelbourne Road (Fig.2). The area of impact is approximately 4077 m².

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on Boyn Hill Gravel, which overlies the solid geology of London Clay. This is overlain by alluvial silts and made ground.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Documentary evidence indicates that the site lay within common pasture or woodland until the 17th century. The first building on the site was The George Inn, thought to have been built in the early 18th century. A domestic residence replaced the inn in c 1750. The hospital was constructed and opened in 1916 and fell from use in 1994 (Brothwick, A, 1996 Archaeological Implications of Development).

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.

2.1.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.

2.1.3 To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.

2.1.4 To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.

- 2.1.5 To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- 2.1.6 To make available the results of the evaluation

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of three trenches, Trench 1 measured 12 m, Trench 2, 24 m and Trench 3 was 21 m long; all trenches were 1.8 m wide (Fig. 2). The two trenches located in the area of the present car park area represent a *c* 3% sample, and a further one trench in the proposed subterranean car park area represents a *c* 4% sample. Due to logistical problems with overgrowth and cabling, Trenches 2 and 3 were moved from their original proposed position and their lengths subsequently reduced; the revised locations are shown in Figure 2. The tarmac cap was broken by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a breaker. Excavation by the JCB was undertaken using a toothless bladed bucket.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and all exposed features/structures were recorded. All features were planned at 1:100 and, where excavated, their sections drawn at 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black-and-white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992). The site archive will be deposited with, and prepared to the standards of, the Museum of London.

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 All finds observed during the excavation were modern. Following standard procedures, modern finds were recorded on context sheets, but not retained.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 Due to the absence of suitable archaeological deposits, no environmental samples were taken.

3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 Descriptions of the excavated trenches and deposits encountered are presented below. Additional context information can be found in the context inventory (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was excavated through the tarmac surface of the former hospital's car park. The tarmac (1000) directly overlay 0.7 m of made ground (1001), which in turn directly overlay an orange silt and clay natural (1002). The made ground (1001) was cut by concrete structure 1008 of indeterminate function; the cut (1006) for the concrete structure, was backfilled with a brown, silty sand deposit (1007). A brick culvert (1003) was also recorded in this trench. The culvert cut the natural clay (1002) and was overlain by made ground (1001). The culvert was of brick construction with a curved roof, the full width of the culvert was not exposed, but exceeded 0.6 m.

Trench 2

- 4.1.2 This trench was excavated along the northern edge of the site aligned north-west to south-east. The uppermost layer in this trench was 0.2 m of klinker (2012) used as hard standing. The klinker deposit partially overlay 0.4 m of topsoil (2011), which in turn sealed two north-east south-west aligned walls (2003 and 2006) and two possible paths on the same alignment (2009, 2010 and 2004, 2005). A small brick culvert 2007 containing a lead pipe also followed this alignment. A north-west south-east aligned brick wall 2002, was seen cutting wall 2006 and was abutted by path 2004/2005. A layer of rubble made ground (2001) was overlain by topsoil (2011), which directly overlay natural clay (2000). The brick walls were 0.15 m thick, and were constructed using frogged red bricks.

Trench 3

- 4.1.3 In Trench 3, 0.2 m of topsoil (3000) overlay 0.7 m of made ground (3001). The made ground overlay 0.35 m of brown silty clay subsoil (3002), which in turn overlay a natural clay silt (3003). No structures or cut features were encountered in this trench.

5 RESULTS: FINDS

5.1 Finds general

- 5.1.1 No finds, other than modern, were recovered from the evaluation.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The even distribution of the trenches and sample rate undertaken is believed to have given a good representation of the archaeological potential of the site.

6.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

- 6.2.1 The evaluation identified no archaeological deposits earlier than the 19th Century. The earliest features were a series of walls, paths and other indeterminate features in Trench 2. These appear to represent 19th and 20th century garden boundaries and associated features present prior to the construction of the hospital. Indeed, it is possible the boundaries relate to the terraced houses north-east of the site, suggesting the boundaries of their gardens may have been moved during construction of the hospital in 1916. The presence of made ground immediately above the natural geology in Trenches 1 and 2 and above the subsoil in Trench 3 indicates that topsoil was removed and relayed during the landscaping of the hospital grounds. The degree to which the natural surface of the site was altered during landscaping is unknown, although the absence of subsoil in Trenches 1 and 2 may suggest substantial truncation.

Significance

- 6.2.2 The structures identified are of relatively modern construction and of little archaeological interest. No other earlier archaeological remains were identified during the evaluation.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick . (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Date</i>
1						
	1000	Layer		0.40	Tarmac	Modern
	1001	Layer		0.70	Made Ground	Modern
	1002	Layer			Natural	
	1003	Structure	0.60+		Culvert	Modern
	1004	Cut	0.60+	0.40	Cut for Culvert	Modern
	1005	Fill		0.40	Fill of 1004	Modern
	1006	Cut	1.92	1.0	Cut for 1008	Modern
	1007	Fill		1.0	Fill of 1006	Modern
	1008	Structure	1.40	-	Concrete structure, Fill of 1006	Modern
2						
	2000	Layer			Natural	
	2001	Layer		0.50	Made Ground	Modern
	2002	Structure	18	0.15	Brick wall	Modern
	2003	Structure	1.35	0.15	Brick wall	Modern
	2004	Structure	1.35	0.07	Brick wall/path	Modern
	2005	Structure	1.35	0.07	Brick wall/path	Modern
	2006	Structure	2	0.15	Brick Wall	Modern
	2007	Structure	-	-	Brick Culvert with lead pipe	Modern
	2008	Layer	1.5	-	gravel	Modern
	2009	Structure	1.5	0.5	Limestone slab	Modern
	2010	Structure	0.6	2.0	Limestone slab	Modern
	2011	Topsoil		0.40	Topsoil	Modern
	2012	Layer		0.20	Clinker surface	Modern
3						
	3000	Layer		0.20	Topsoil	Modern
	3001	Layer		0.70	Made Ground	Modern
	3002	Layer		0.35	Sub-soil	
	3003	Layer			Natural	

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Brothwick, A, 1996 Archaeological Implications of Development

Wilkinson, D, 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit, Field Manual

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: South London Women's Hospital

Site code: CZS'03

Grid reference: NGR TQ 289 783

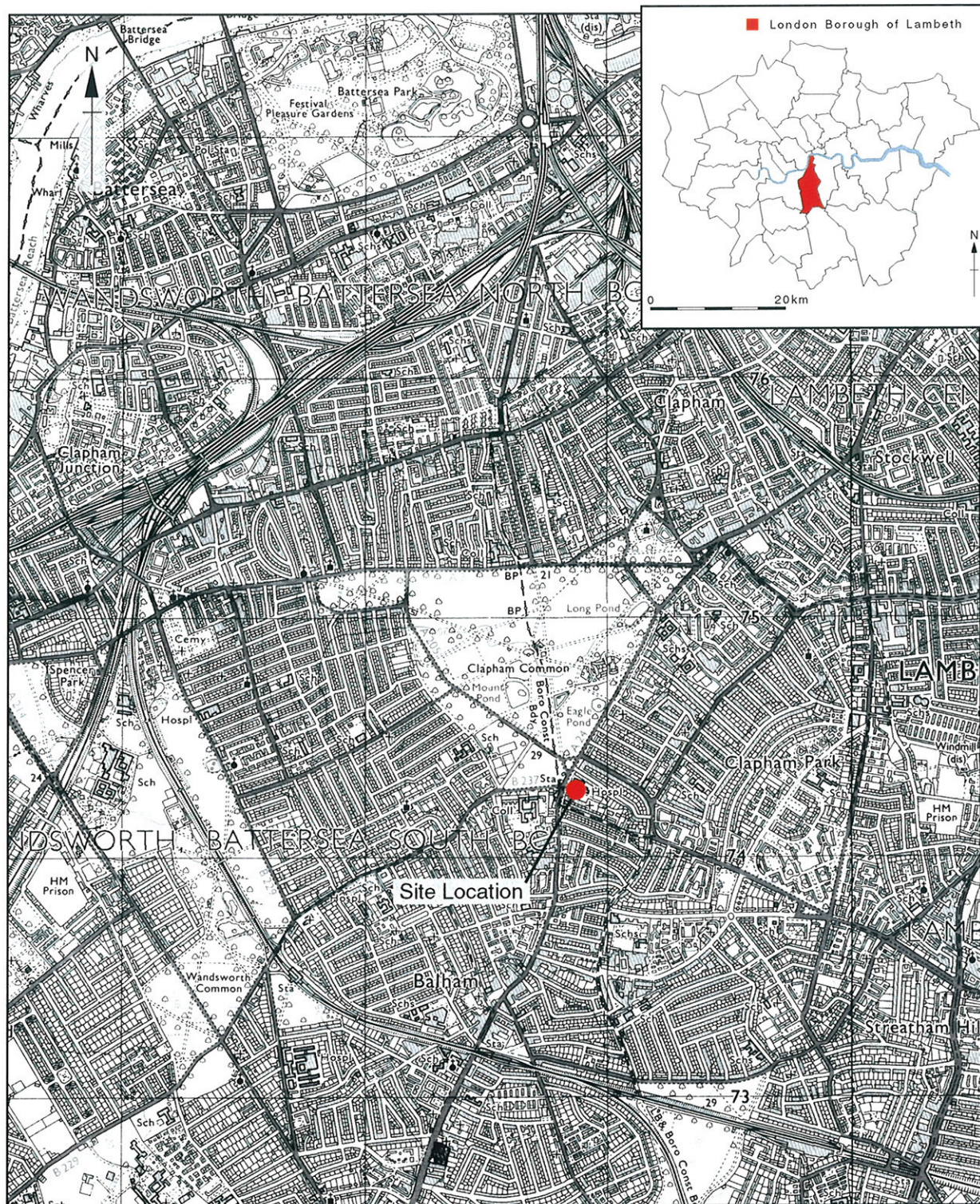
Type of evaluation: Archaeological trenching

Date and duration of project: 24-28 March 2003

Area of site: 4 ha

Summary of results: Post-medieval brick walls and paths relating to garden area of former dwellings predating the construction of the hospital.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Museum of London in due course, under the following accession number: CZS 03. (to be confirmed)



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

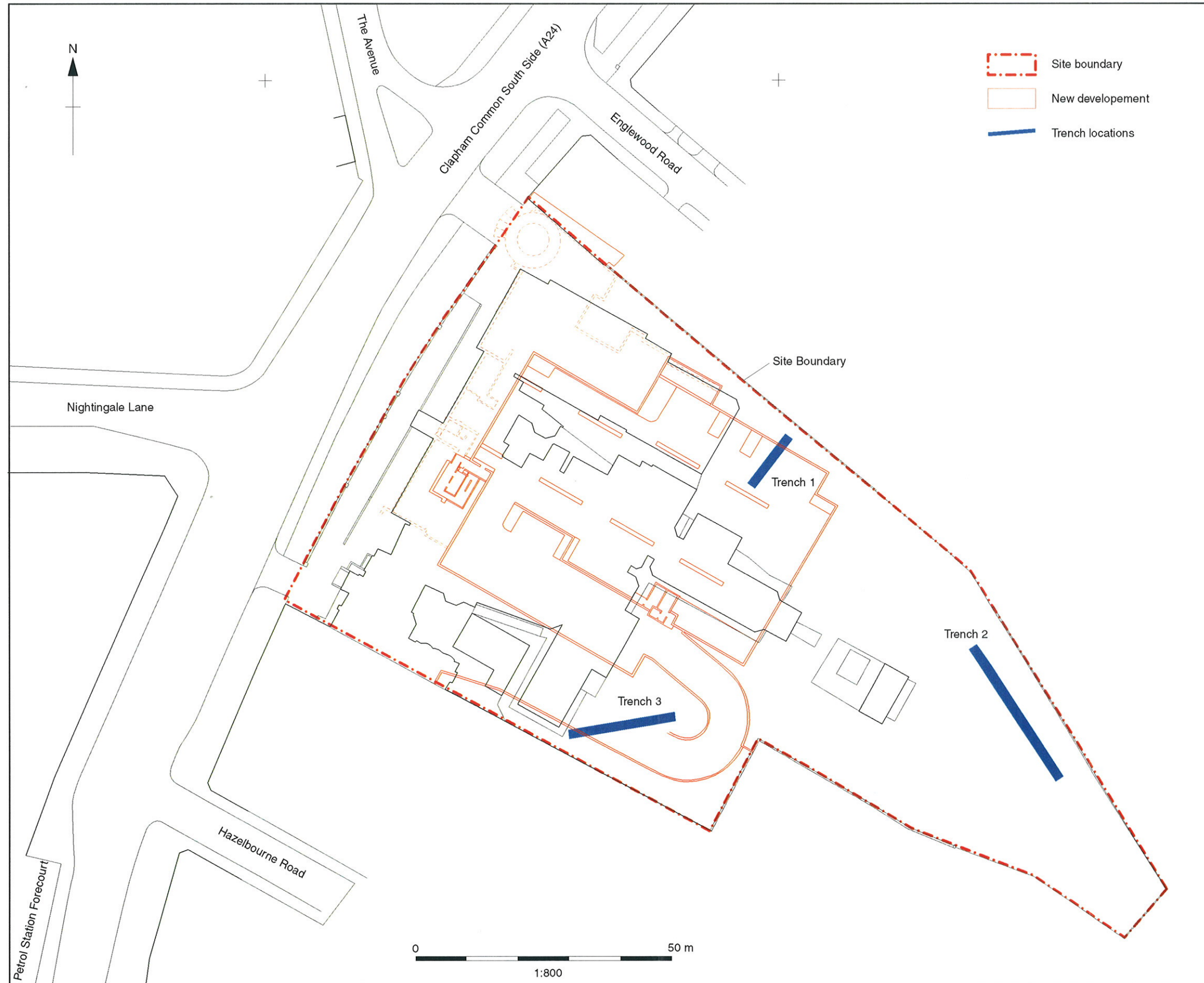


Figure 2: Trench location plan

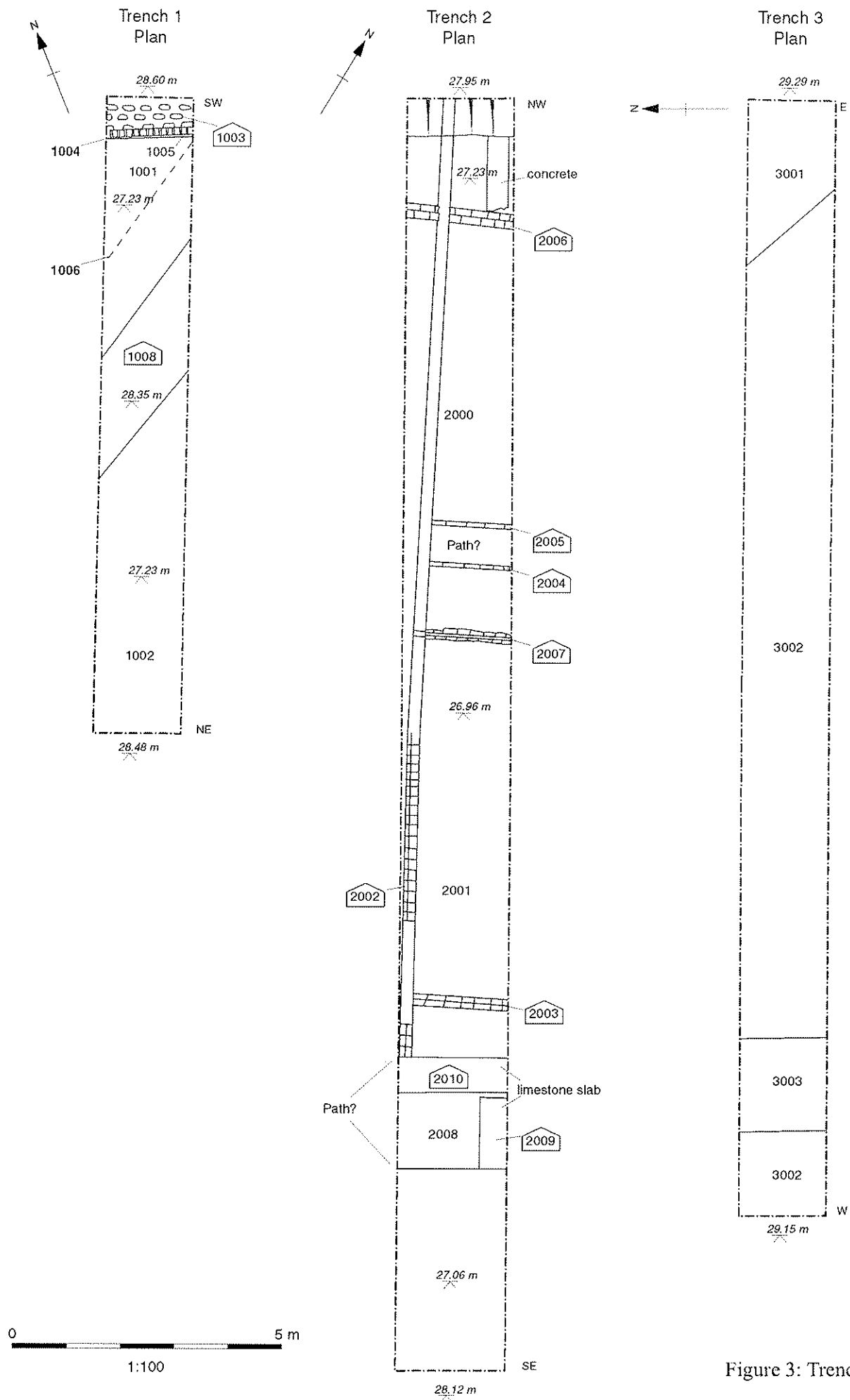
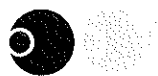


Figure 3: Trench plans



Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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