

Stroud Lodge,
309 Upper Richmond Road,
Putney

Archaeological Evaluation

TQ 2322 7523



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit on behalf of Dean-Walker Bateman Architects at Stroud Lodge, 309 Upper Richmond Road, Putney (NGR TQ 23227523 - see Fig. 1). The work was undertaken in fulfilment of conditions placed upon planning permission for the redevelopment of the Nursing Home to a written scheme of investigation approved by English Heritage, London Region acting as advisors to Wandsworth Borough Council.

The evaluation took the form of trial excavations in the rear garden of the property, together with a desk-top study of the archaeological and historical background of the area in order to put the fieldwork results into context. This report presents the results of both the desk-top and field evaluations.

2.0 Geology and Topography

The site lies at about 10 m OD on level ground about 700 m south of the River Thames. The underlying geology comprises Head deposits which overlie the gravels of the Flood Plain Terrace. In the excavated trenches the Head was seen to be a thin layer of yellowish sandy silt. The land was used as a garden with a lawn and immature trees.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical background

Archaeological sites and stray finds are known from the area of Putney. Prehistoric material, coming mainly from the gravel terrace, includes stray Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flints¹, possible Neolithic settlements² and stray finds³, and possible late Bronze Age/Iron Age settlements near the Thames (at Felsham Road⁴, Bemish Road⁵ and at the mouth of Beverley Brook⁶). Stray finds of late Bronze Age/Iron Age metalwork have been recovered from this stretch of the river. Putney is the only place between the Strand and Richmond where the gravel terrace touches the river's edge and it is possible that Putney was an important crossing point in the prehistoric period, as it became in Roman and later times.

Considerable evidence for Roman settlement has been found in Putney, chiefly coming from near the river in the area of the Star and Garter and Spring Passage⁷. There was probably a river crossing to a settlement at Fulham Palace. Of the numerous conjectured Roman roads, there is evidence for one along Upper Richmond Road, running south of the present road in the vicinity of the development site⁸.

There is very little evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement in Putney. It is

first mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) as 'Putelei' within the manor of Mortlake. Settlement was probably restricted to the area of the High Street and river's edge as the 1497 surveys of Putney and Roehampton seem to indicate. This is made clear on Nicholas Lane's map of Putney (1636), which shows strip fields in the area of the development site. There was no formal agricultural enclosure, but by the mid 17th century many fields were enclosed for market gardening.

The rapid development of Putney came in the 17th century and afterwards with market gardening and the increasing numbers of mansions built for well-to-do merchants and public figures, both developments reflecting Putney's proximity to London. The 1849 Tithe Map and the 1st edition 1:2500 OS map (1865) - see Appendix 1 - show that the development site lay within the grounds of a house called 'The Retreat'. Extensive orchards are shown in this area. The railway to Waterloo was opened in 1846 and blocks of streets for housing were laid out from the 1850s. The 1880s in particular seem to have been the formative decade for Putney's present day appearance. 309 Upper Richmond Road was probably built around 1878 when Dealtry Road was created. Laurence Oates (b.1880), of Scott's 1912 Antarctic expedition, spent much of his childhood there.

4.0 **Archaeological Potential**

While no known archaeological sites were known from the development area, there was considered to be some potential for prehistoric and Roman remains, particularly the Roman road thought to follow the course of Upper Richmond Road (see Endnote 8). The neolithic finds from Dealtry Road suggest a prehistoric site nearby to the west (see Endnote 3), while Roman pottery and a possible mosaic fragment from the Howards Lane area, although imprecisely provenanced, suggest a high-status Roman site to the south (see Endnote 7).

5.0 **Aims**

The aims of the field evaluation were to determine the extent, nature, date and quality of any archaeological deposits, and to appraise the impact of the development proposals upon them.

6.0 **Methods**

The field evaluation took the form of two trenches excavated using a 3-tonne mini-excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket (see Fig. 2). Trench 1 was 5 m long and Trench 2 was 10 m long. They were 2 m wide. Superficial deposits were removed as far as undisturbed natural geology and the trenches were then cleaned by hand. Recording followed the standard OAU procedure (Appendix 2 of Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation).

7.0 General Results

No features or finds of archaeological interest were discovered.

Both trenches showed a very similar sequence of soil layers and will be described together below. A summary of the contexts recorded is presented in Table 1. Trench sections are shown in Fig. 3.

Under 400 mm of modern garden soil (Contexts 100 and 200) was encountered a layer of mixed yellow/brown sandy silt with some pebbles and patches of brick rubble (101 & 201). This was interpreted as relatively modern dumping. This sealed a dark grey-brown sandy loam (102 & 202), 200-400 mm thick which was interpreted as a buried topsoil. It had quite a clear interface with the underlying subsoil and was probably a cultivated garden soil. The subsoil (103 & 203) was a mottled yellowish grey-brown sandy silt which appeared to be formed by natural weathering. It yielded few finds and overlay the natural sandy silt (104 & 204).

8.0 Interpretation

The depth of overburden removed (nearly 1 m) indicated a considerable build-up of soil. The upper 500-600 mm consisted of garden soil and made ground, probably associated with the construction of Stroud House. The buried soil (102 and 202) was similar to the modern topsoil and can be readily seen as relating to the gardens of 'The Retreat' as shown on the 1865 OS map. Some post-medieval pottery and clay pipe were recovered during cleaning. The buried subsoil showed little sign of disturbance but did yield a post-medieval sherd and some brick fragments.

9.0 Conclusion

No finds or features of archaeological importance were encountered. The course of the Roman road, thought to follow approximately the line of Upper Richmond Road, possibly lies a little further to the north.

While the quantity of artefacts recovered from mechanically excavated deposits cannot be regarded as a reliable 'sample', the excavation was conducted under close archaeological supervision and the trenches were extensively cleaned by hand. Conditions were good and the results are considered to be reliable.

Table 1: Context summary

P-M: post-medieval

Context	Type	Depth mm	Finds (No.)	Comment
100	topsoil	300-380		modern
101	layer	300-400		dumping
102	layer	150-200	P-M pot (1) clay pipe (4)	buried garden soil
103	layer	150-200		subsoil
104	deposit			natural Head
200	topsoil	300-400	P-M pot (3) mortar (1)	modern
201	layer	100-250	brick (3)	dump
202	layer	200-400	P-M pot (2) bone (1) brick (1)	buried garden soil
203	layer	150-240	P-M pot (1) brick (2)	subsoil
204	deposit			natural Head

Sources consulted

Gerhold, Dorian (ed) 1994 *Putney and Roehampton Past* Historical Publications Ltd.

Maps

Tithe map (1849). Transcription held in Battersea Local Studies Library.
OS 1st ed. 1:2500 (1865)
OS 2nd ed. 1:2500 (1893)

Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (NGR TQ 2375).

Endnotes

1. Greater London Sites and Monuments Record reference (SMR nos.) 020704, 031088, 031089, 031090, 031091, 031137, 031173.

2. SMR nos. 031192 at 38-46 Sefton Street (TQ 23287600); 031241 at 34-6 Erpingham Road (TQ 23257571); 031255 at 10 Bemish Road (TQ 238756).

3. Many SMR records including finds from Dealtry Road (SMR no. 031193) at TQ 232752.

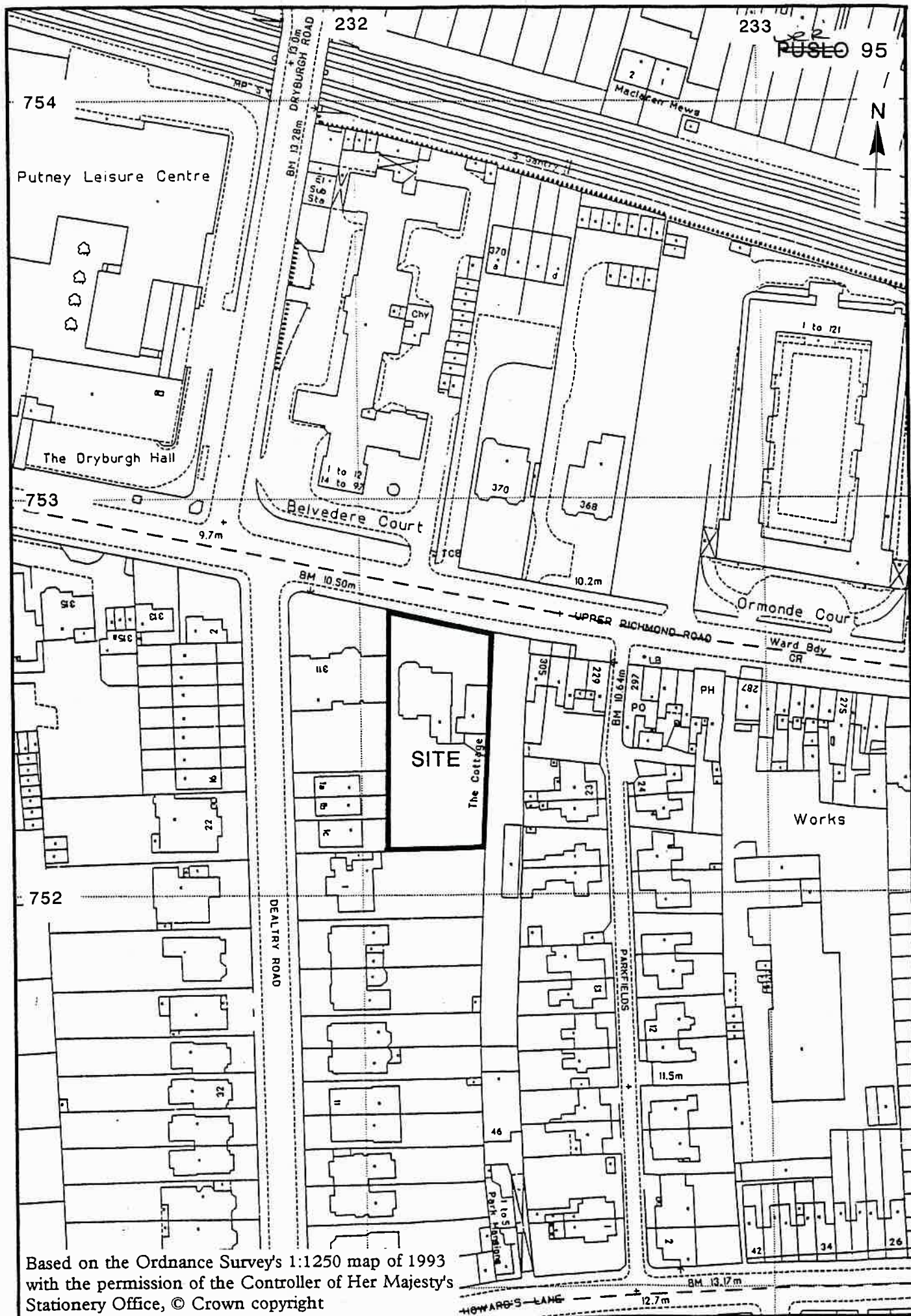
4. SMR no. 031277 (TQ 23977558).

5. SMR no. 031279 (TQ 238756).

6. Gerhold, D (1994) *Putney and Roehampton Past*, 10 & Fig.6.

7. The chief excavated sites are at Waterman Street (SMR nos. 020741, 020748, 020751, 031331); The Platt/Gay Street (SMR nos. 020753, 031299, 031300, 031301); and Felsham Road/Bemish Road (SMR nos. 031289, 031296, 031318). There are also innumerable stray finds from the parish. Of particular relevance is the record of Roman pottery and mosaic fragments from the Howards Lane area (SMR nos. 020794 & 020795, NGR TQ 232751).

8. A Roman road and ditch were found in 1967 at 319 Upper Richmond Road/Colinette Road (SMR no. 020745, NGR TQ 23097527); and probably also at 321 Upper Richmond Road (SMR no. 031326, NGR TQ 23047529).



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:1250 map of 1993 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright

scale 1:1250

site location

figure 1

2322



existing tree removed

7525

7525

Upper Richmond Road

Stroud Lodge

lawns

TRENCH 2

TRENCH 1

patio

patio

1 2 3 4

8 7 6 5

existing path re-routed

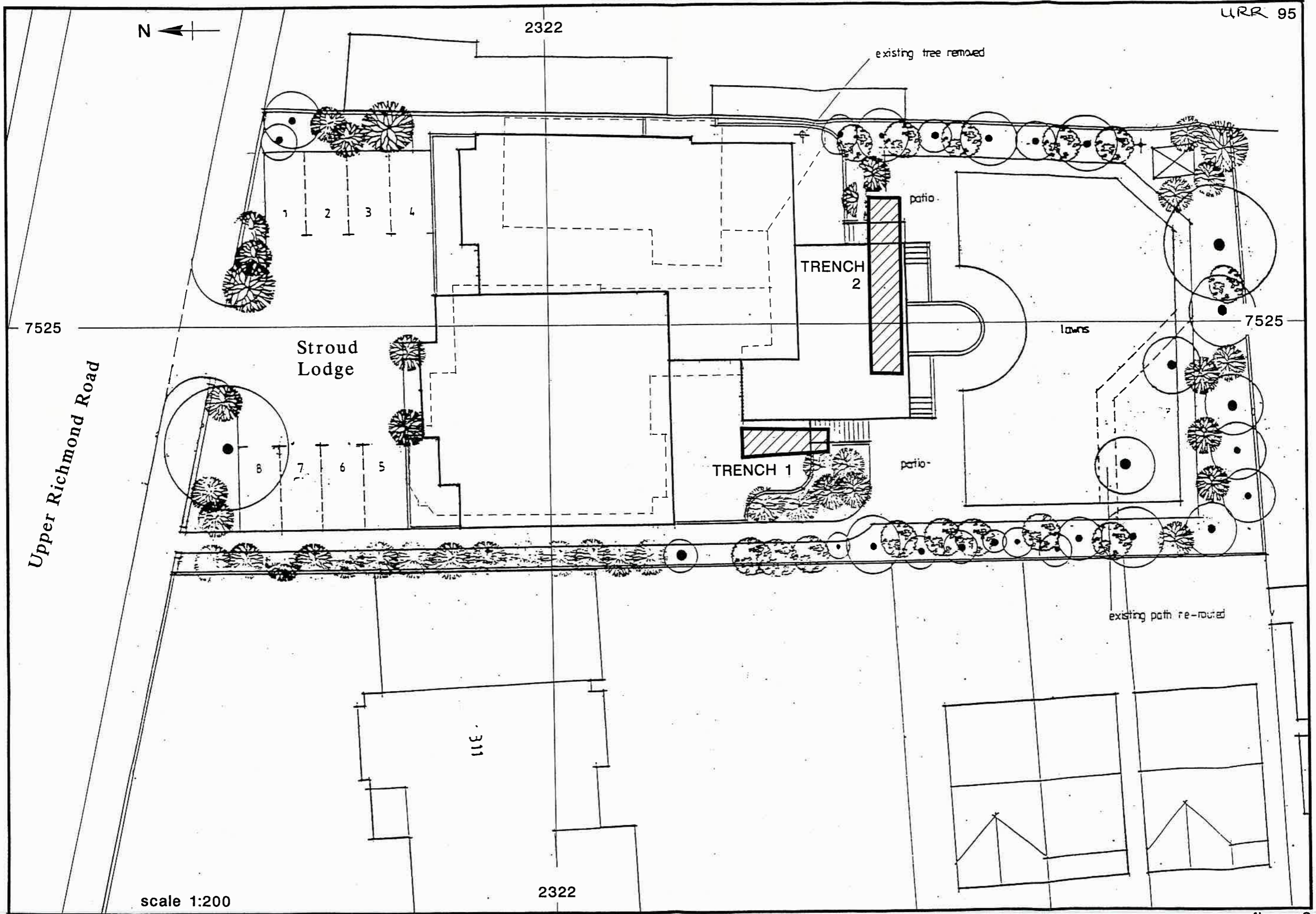
311

2322

scale 1:200

trench location in relation to proposed development

figure 2



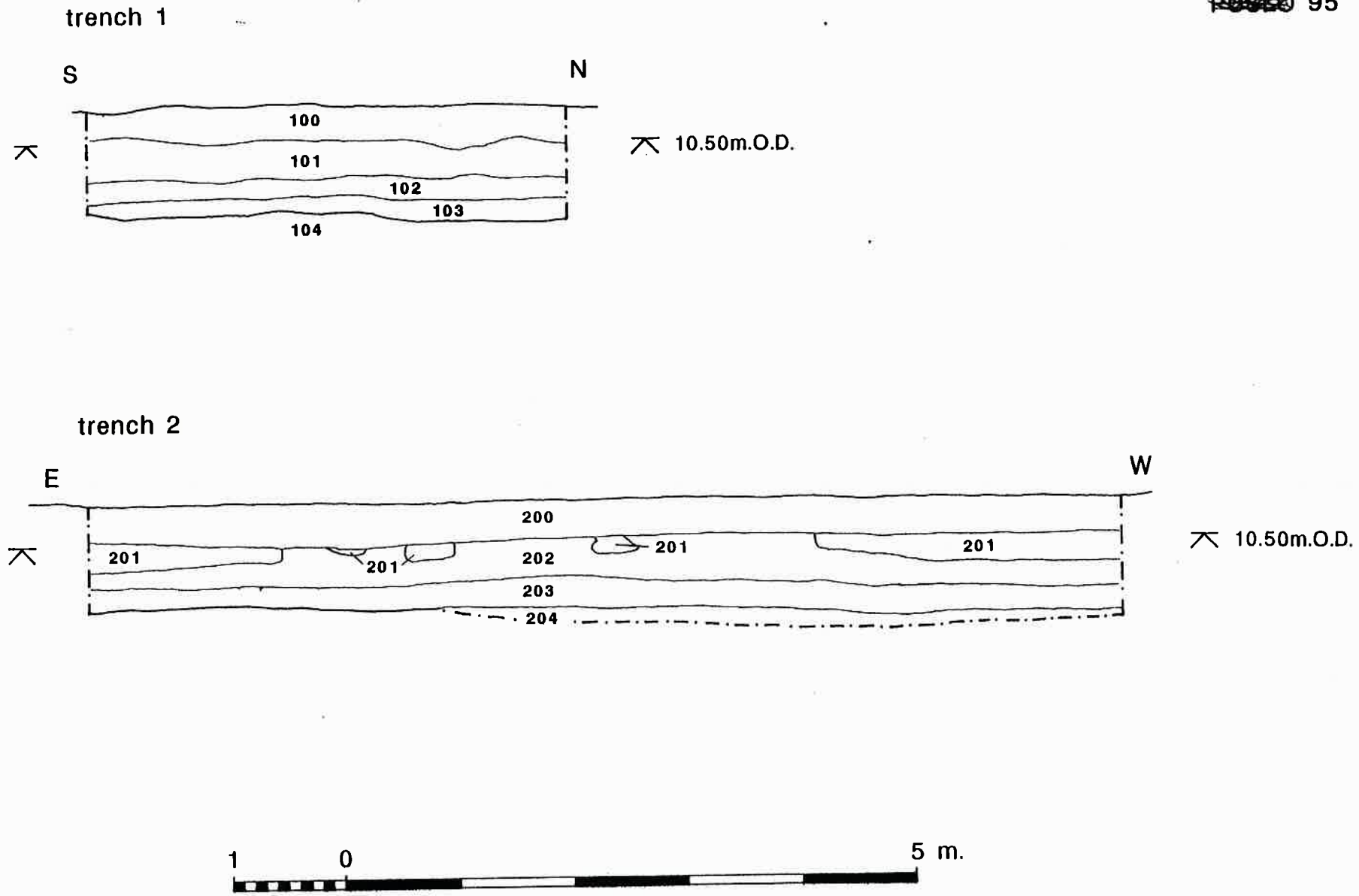
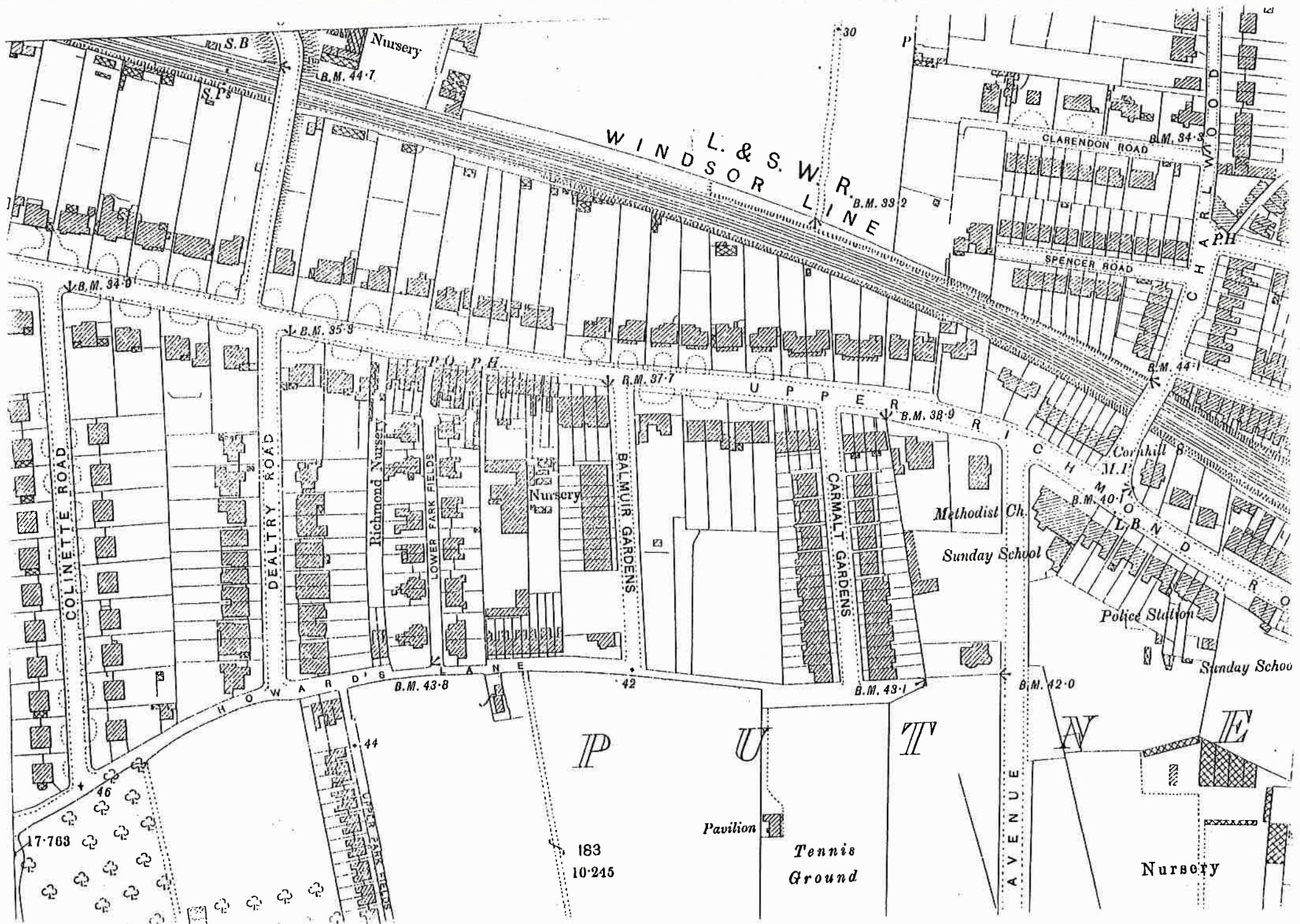


figure 3

Appendix 1a: 1:2500 OS 2nd ed. (1893)



WINDSOR L. & S.W. R. LINE

CLARENDON ROAD

SPENCER ROAD

COLINETTE ROAD

DEALTRY ROAD

Richmond Nursery

LOWER PARK FIELDS

BALMUIR GARDENS

CARMALT GARDENS

Methodist Ch.

Sunday School

Police Station

Sunday School

Pavilion

Tennis Ground

Nursery

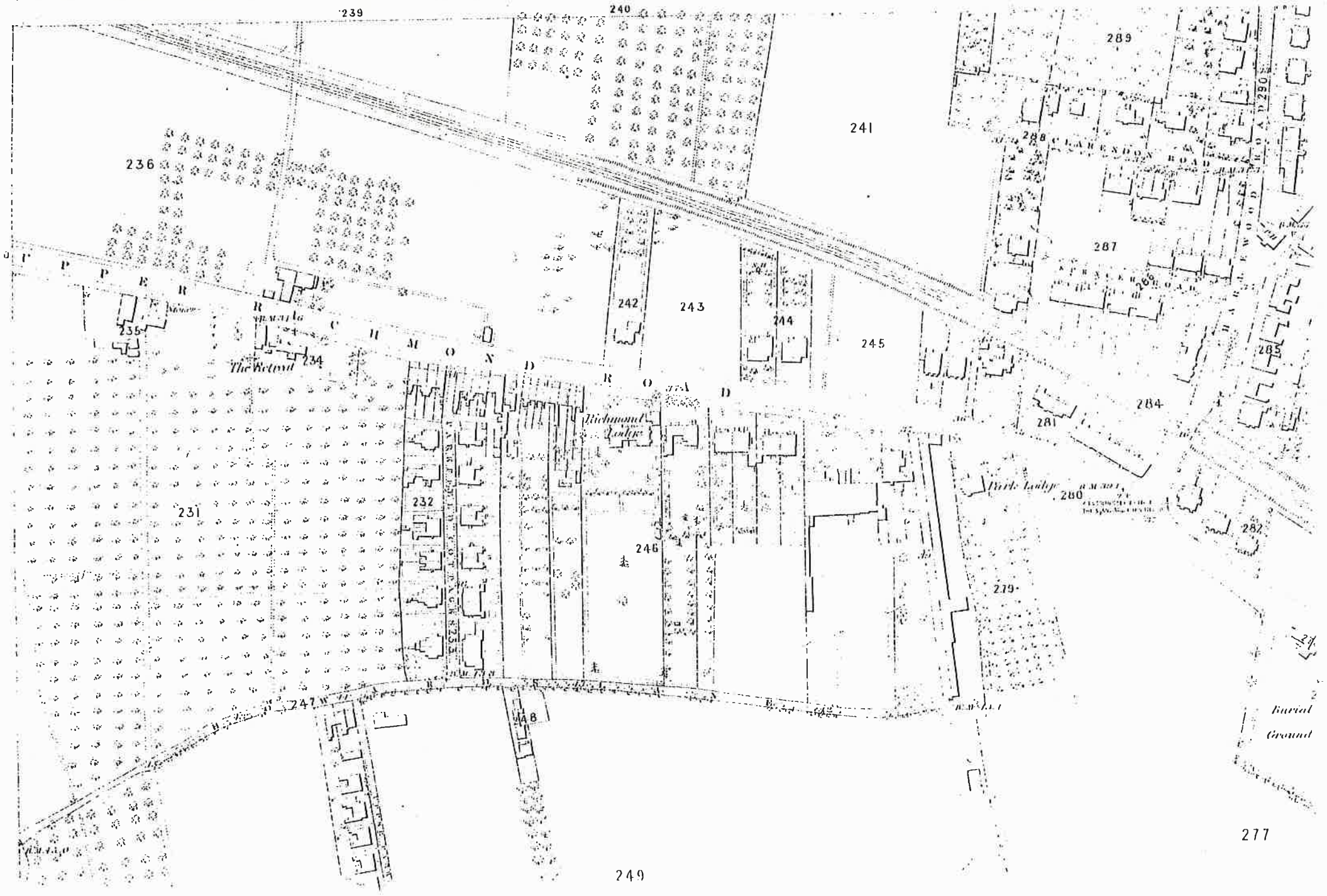
17-763

183
10-245

VRRA5

Appendix 1b: 1:2500 OS 1st ed. (1865)

PUTNEY & WANDSWORTH P^{HS}

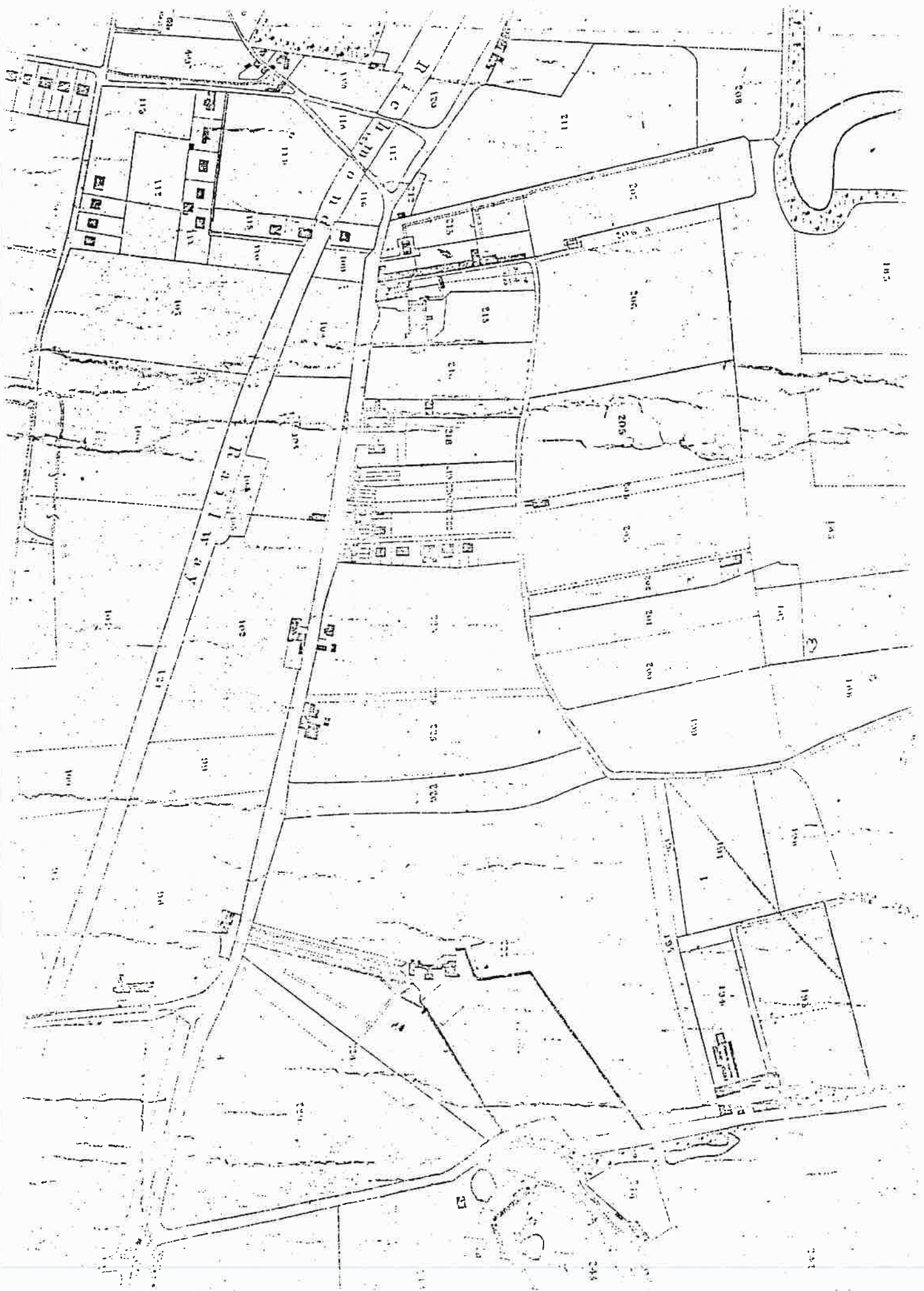


Burial Ground

277

URR 05

Appendix 1c: Tithe Map transcription (1849). Top of page east.



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