

Coldstream Gardens, Putney London Borough of Wandsworth

NGR TQ 2462 7430

Archaeological Evaluation Report

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

February 1996

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Author: R.Brown

Project Manager: C.Bell

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1 Summary

- 1.1 No significant archaeological features or remains were revealed by this investigation. It is apparent that a combination of 19th century cultivation and 20th century development has completely removed any earlier deposits that may have existed on the site.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation on the site of Coldstream Gardens, Putney, London Borough of Wandsworth, in February 1996. The work was carried out on behalf of Allot Project Management, ahead of a proposed development of the site and was commissioned as part of the conditions of planning consent for this development.
- 2.2 The site lies within 250m of a designated Archaeological Priority Area. Although map references indicated that the site was subject to regular ploughing in the 19th century (suggesting that the potential for Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains was low) prehistoric finds and settlements, as well as considerable evidence for Roman settlement (see Gazetteer) are known from the area of Putney. Putney is the only place between the Strand and Richmond where the gravel terrace touches the rivers edge and it is possible that Putney was an important crossing point in the prehistoric period, as it became in Roman and later times. The aim of the evaluation was therefore primarily to establish the existence, nature, and date of any prehistoric or Roman evidence of occupation that might survive within the proposed development area.
- 2.3 The investigation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by the Oxford Archaeological Unit and agreed by English Heritage.

3 Location and Topography

- 3.1 The site is situated to the south-west of Wandsworth and the south-east of Putney and lies within the military establishment of Coldstream Gardens.
- 3.2 The proposed development site covers an area of approximately 11,200 square metres. The northern half of the site is relatively flat, while the southern half visibly slopes from the north-west down to the south-east.
- 3.3 The Geological Survey, sheet 270, shows the site to lie on London Clay with an area of Quaternary River Terrace deposits 100 m to the east.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background (by Ianto Wain)

- 4.1 The Coldstream Gardens site is located in the lower slopes of an area of London Clay on the south-eastern edge of the historic parish of Wandsworth, close to the boundary with Putney. Historically, and probably archaeologically this area of clay which is likely to have been boggy and heavy to work represented the less fertile and more marginal land of the area. The historic settlements of both Putney and Wandsworth, both of which can demonstrate archaeological activity from the Palaeolithic onwards and proven settlement from the Iron Age onwards appear to have been concentrated on the first gravel terrace and the Thames and Wandle floodplains to the north and east of the development site. Demonstrated archaeological activity in the immediate vicinity of the development site is scarce: the area has produced a number of chance Prehistoric finds (OAU 25 and 31) and one possible Roman find (OAU 9) but no demonstrated medieval or earlier activity has been identified.
- 4.2 Historically the development site lay in the open fields of Wandsworth to the south of the main focus of settlement. On Rocques 1746 map of Surrey, which probably reflects the medieval or earlier settlement pattern of the area the development site is shown as lying within 'South Field' to the south of the village of Wandsworth. In the 18th and 19th centuries the medieval open fields of Wandsworth were gradually enclosed and then developed. In the 19th century the land became part of the estate of the Duke of Sutherland, centred around Melrose Hall, constructed in the mid 18th century on the site now occupied by the Royal Hospital and Home for Neurological Diseases. On the 1838 Wandsworth Tithe Map the site is marked as pasture belonging to the Duke of Sutherland. The Duke sold the estate in 1841 and by the time of Stanfords 1962 map of land the site is occupied by a row of detached villas with large gardens set back from the road.

5 **Methodology** (see Fig. 2 for trench locations)

- 5.1 The evaluation comprised of three trial trenches. These were located with regard to areas identified by English Heritage (following a desk-top appraisal) which were potentially undisturbed by previous developments and which will be affected by the current proposals.
- 5.2 The trenches were excavated down to the top of the first significant archaeological deposits, or in their absence down to the top of the natural subsoil, using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench sections and exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand, and the various deposits were described, drawn and photographed.

6 **Results**

6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3a)

This trench was located in the central/northern half of the site in a NNW-SSE alignment and was 20 m long x 1.55 m wide.

Natural gravelly sand (109) was revealed in this trench at 26.99 m OD, 0.60 m below the existing ground level. This was overlain throughout the trench (apart from where it had been removed by modern intrusions) by a friable silty-loam (108) which contained clay-pipe stems and occasional red brick fragments. This deposit was characteristic of a cultivated soil.

Deposit 108 was overlain by two layers of silty sand (107 and 106) both of which contained modern stamped and frogged brick. These layers were below a layer of building debris(105) which in turn was overlain by an imported garden soil layer 104.

Layer 104 was cut by several modern drains and other services (102, 103, 111, 112, and 114) and was overlain by the present turf (101).

6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3b)

This trench was located in the central/southern half of the site in a NW-SE alignment and was 20 m long x 1.55 m wide.

Natural sand (215) was revealed in this trench at 26.57 m OD, 0.76 m below the existing ground level. This was overlain throughout the trench by a clean yellowy brown sand (204) that contained no finds or inclusions. Several features (212, 209, 208, 206 and 207) were cut into this deposit. These features were reminiscent of garden beds and were securely dated to the 19th century by the presence of transfer-ware pottery.

Overlying features 212, 209, 208, 206 and 207 were two garden soils (205 and 203) which in turn were overlain by a building debris deposits 202 and 201 which perhaps represent the horizon of the 1960's development of the site. This was overlain by modern turf and topsoil 200.

6.3 Trench 3

This trench was located in the south-west of the site in a NNWE-SSE alignment and was 15 m long x 1.55 m wide.

Natural sand (307) was revealed in this trench at 26.42 m OD, 1.1 m below the existing ground level. This was overlain throughout the trench by a concrete surface 305 and its associated make-up layer 306. Overlying the concrete surface was a building debris deposit (303 and 304) which in turn was overlain by imported topsoil and turf, 302 and 301 respectively.

7 Discussion and conclusions

- 7.1 The only deposits revealed by this investigation appear to relate to 19th century soil cultivation (either ploughing, or as is more likely in the case of trench 2, garden activity) and 20th century development intrusions, probably associated with the existing (1960's) housing estate.
- 7.2 The evaluation therefore appears to have established that any medieval, or earlier remains that may have existed on the site have been completely destroyed by subsequent cultivation and development.

R. Brown
The Oxford Archaeological Unit
February 1996

Archive sources consulted

Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) as held by English Heritage (London Division)

National Archaeological Record (NAR) as held by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME)

Table of contexts

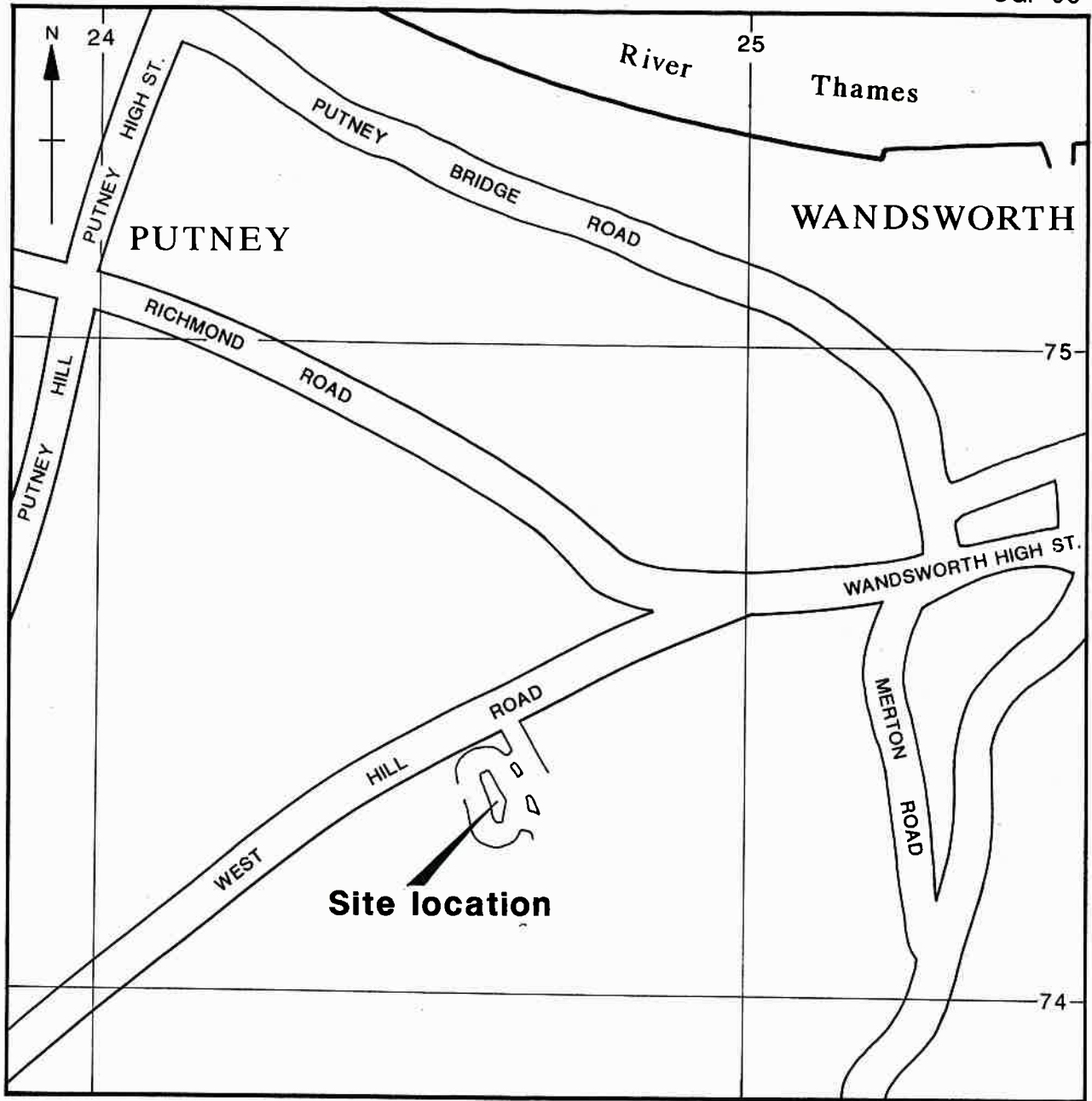
CTX	TYPE	COMMENTS
101	Deposit	Turf
102	Structure/ Deposit	20th century brick manhole and associated drains
103	Cut	Construction cut for 103
104	Deposit	Imported (20th century) topsoil
105	Deposit	20th century building debris, associated with 1960's development?
106	Deposit	20th century dump deposit
107	Deposit	20th century dump deposit
108	Deposit	19th century cultivated soil
109	Layer	Natural gravelly sand
110	Deposit	Disturbed natural, interface between 107 and 109
111	Services	Gas services
112	Cut	Cut for services 111
113	Service	Service (unidentified)
114	Cut	Cut for 113
200	Deposit	Topsoil and turf
201	Deposit	20th century building material dump
202	Deposit	20th century building material dump
203	Deposit	19th-20th century garden soil
204	Deposit	19th-20th century garden soil
205	Deposit	19th century garden soil
206	Fill	19th century fill of garden feature
207	Cut	19th century cut of garden feature
208	Fill	19th century fill of garden feature
209	Fill	19th century fill of garden feature
210	Fill	Infill of 19th century PH
211	Fill	Infill of 19th century PH
212	Fill	Infill of 19th century PH
213	Fill	Infill of 19th century PH
214	Fill	Infill of 19th century PH
215	Layer	Natural sand
301	Deposit	Topsoil
302	Deposit	Imported garden soil
303	Deposit	20th century building debris
304	Deposit	20th century building debris
305	Deposit	20th century concrete surface
306	Deposit	Disturbed natural/ horizon of construction for 305
307	Layer	Natural sand

Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites within 1km of site.

- 1: Site of Water Mills on the River Wandle, mentioned in documentary sources from 1559 onwards. Excavation in 1973 revealed Brick culverts and masonry.
GLSMR nos 03180-3
NGR TQ 2560 7450
- 2: Roman findspot. Roman pottery collected from construction site in Atney Road, Wandsworth by Wandsworth Historical Society in 1963.
GLSMR no 020740
NGR TQ 242753
- 3: Archaeological Excavation. Excavation by Museum of London in 1992 revealed two undated field boundaries or drainage ditches sealed by remains of 17th century building.
GLSMR no 021867
NGR TQ 2537 7450
- 4: Watching Brief. Watching Brief by Museum of London Archaeological Services in 1994 and 1995 revealed a layer of post-medieval dumping. No earlier evidence.
GLSMR no 022071
NGR TQ 2375 7458
- 5: Roman and Medieval site. 4 Roman sherds and 9 medieval sherds found in excavations by Wandsworth Historical Society in 1963.
GLSMR Nos 031329 & 031375.
- 6: Excavation by Wandsworth Historical Society in 1970. No details of excavation, finds comprise two boxes of '17th and 18th century material'.
GLSMR no 020739
NGR TQ 2403 7515
- 7: Mesolithic flints, Neolithic flints, probably Roman Road, Medieval trackway, Post-medieval pottery. Multi-period site. Excavation by Wandsworth Historical Society at 14 Gwendolen Avenue in 1974-5 revealed the line of a probable Roman Road, with ditches and either side, overlaid by a medieval gravel trackway. Site also produced Mesolithic and Neolithic flints and medieval and post-medieval pottery.
GLSMR nos 031184, 031248, 031298, 031365, 031466.
NGR TQ 2371 7500
- 8: Palaeolithic and Roman finds from Wandsworth High St. Palaeolithic flint flake and Roman Bronze spoon found in High St area.
GLSMR nos 031112, 031466.
NGR TQ 2371 7500
- 9: Findspot of a possibly Roman lead vessel.
GLSMR no 031302
TQ 2412 7440
- 10: Findspot of a Neolithic stone axe.
GLSMR no 031302
NGR TQ 2372 7322
- 11: Findspot of a Palaeolithic Handaxe. Cordate handaxe found during drainage work in 1910.
GLSMR no 03085
NGR TQ 244 747
- 12: Findspot of Neolithic finds in 19th century. Finds reputed to come from this area, no further information given.
GLSMR no 020806
NGR TQ 2396 7515
- 13: Archaeological Excavation. Museum of London excavation in 1993 revealed post-medieval terracing probably associated with the garden of Down Lodge House, built in 1793. No earlier activity recorded.
GLSMR no 021293
NGR TQ 2527 7438
- 14: General area of Prehistoric findspots. Merton Road is recorded as the findspot of Palaeolithic handaxe, a Mesolithic Tranchet Axe and a Bronze Age stone axe and flint dagger.
GLSMR nos 030841, 031182, 031268-9.
NGR TQ 253 734.
- 15: Findspot of a Mesolithic flint flake.
GLSMR no 031179
TQ 246 748
- 16: Multi-period site. A Mesolithic flint blade is recorded from this site in the early 20th century. Excavation by the Department of Greater London Archaeology in 1990 revealed foundations of 19th and early 20th century buildings. These cut a disturbed layer of grey silt and sand which contained Mesolithic flint flakes and blades, pieces of fire-cracked flint and Prehistoric, Saxon and Medieval pottery. A Watching brief by Museum of London Archaeological Services in 1995 just to the south of this site (NGR 252 751) revealed no archaeological features.
GLSMR nos 021148-50, 021915. 031186.
NGR TQ 252 752

- 17: Site of 19th century gravel and 20th century clay pits.
GLSMR 031551, 031557.
- 18: Medieval and post-medieval site. Evaluation by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in January 1996 discovered that post-medieval and modern layers overlay and cut the natural geology. Modern contexts contained three late medieval pot sherds and a late 16th or very early 17th century jetton.
GLSMR nos 022159-61.
NGR TQ 2524 7476
- 19: Mesolithic and medieval findspot. Mesolithic flint blade and 15th century purse bar found (at different times) in Putney Bridge Road.
GLSMR 031181, 031371.
NGR TQ 247 752
- 20: Possible settlement site. Lawrence (1929) records that early Iron Age pottery and wooden piles have been found in this area and suggests that this may be an early Iron Age settlement site.
GLSMR 031591
NGR TQ 250 750
- 21: Findspot of a Neolithic Flint Axe and an undated hone stone.
GLSMR 031235, 031237.
NGR 238745
- 22: Findspot a Bronze Age axe found during rebuilding of Ram Brewery in 19th century.
GLSMR 031273
NGR TQ 2564 7467
- 23: Multi-period finds from the River Wandle, Wandsworth. These include a Bronze Age bronze rapier, a Bronze Age palstave, a Bronze Age dagger, an early Iron Age blade, a Roman knife and other material, Saxon Horse equipment and a medieval dagger.
GLSMR nos 020802, 020805, 020830, 031627, 031276, 031311-2 031369-70.
NGR centred 255 747
- 24: Archaeological Evaluation. Evaluation in the grounds of the Royal Hospital in July 1995 revealed several late 18th/19th century field drains. These were cut into the natural clay. No earlier archaeological features were revealed.
GLSMR 022033
NGR 2432 7403
- 25: Centralised findspot of prehistoric finds from the grounds of the Royal Hospital Home for Incurable, West Hill. These include a Mesolithic Tranchet Axe, Ne flint flakes, scrapers and tools.
GLSMR 020727, 031188, 031198, 031250.
NGR TQ 243740
- 26: Late medieval and post-medieval site. Excavations by Wandsworth Historical Society at Stimpsons Building, Wandle Bridge in 1969 revealed a late medieval or tudor rubbish dumps containing shoes, buckles, metal objects and pottery. The site also contained the possible remains of a 17th century quay or landing stage and a Victorian sewer.
GLSMR 031377, 031489-91.
NGR TQ 2560 7460
- 27: Prehistoric findspot and post-medieval site. Archaeological excavation at McDonalds Hamburger Restaurant in 1991 revealed a layer of 17th century ploughsoil and 17th century beam slots, 18th century postholes and 18th and 19th century pits. A number of prehistoric flints, mostly Mesolithic, were found either residual in later contexts or lying on the surface of the natural sands.
GLSMR 021342-7
NGR TQ 2604 7542
- 28: Site of two Barrow cemeteries. Tibbets Corner, Putney Heath is reputed as the site of two Barrow cemeteries, one Bronze Age and one Saxon which were demolished in the 18th century. The group(s) are said to have comprised a total of 23 barrows although no further information is available.
GLSMR 031247, 031266, 031346.
NGR TQ 235736
- 29: Findspot of a Roman coin. 2nd century Roman coin found close to Upper Richmond Road in 1964.
GLSMR 031303
NGR 2409 7495
- 30: Centralised findspot of multi-period finds from the Wandsworth area. These include a large quantity of Palaeolithic flint axes, cores, flakes, scrapers and other implements, Mesolithic flint implements, a Neolithic Fengeate vessel and flint implements including arrowheads and axes, Bronze Age bronze implements including a dagger, pin, spearhead, axe and palstave, an Iron Age bronze dagger sheath, Roman coins and potsherds, a Saxon bone knife handle and bronze buckle, a quantity of medieval iron objects and coins and a number of undated finds. Most of these artefacts were found in the 19th or early 20th centuries and their exact provenance is unknown.
GLSMR 020798-9, 020781, 020831-2, 030873-4, 030885, 030887-90, 030892-3, 030897, 030901, 030904, 030910-12, 030920, 031050, 031064-5, 031078, 031151, 031155-6, 031203-4, 031207-8, 031210, 031212, 031215-6, 031274, 031341, 031343, 031353-5, 031416-7 031520, 031525, 031527.
NGR TQ 2474

31: Centralised findspot of Prehistoric flint implements. At least three Palaeolithic handaxes and a scraper, a Mesolithic flake or blade and a Neolithic axe are all recorded in the 19th century as having been found in the West Hill area. The exact provenance of these objects is unclear.
GLSMR 030828-31, 031140, 031199-200.
NGR TQ 246744



scale 1:10,000

Figure 1

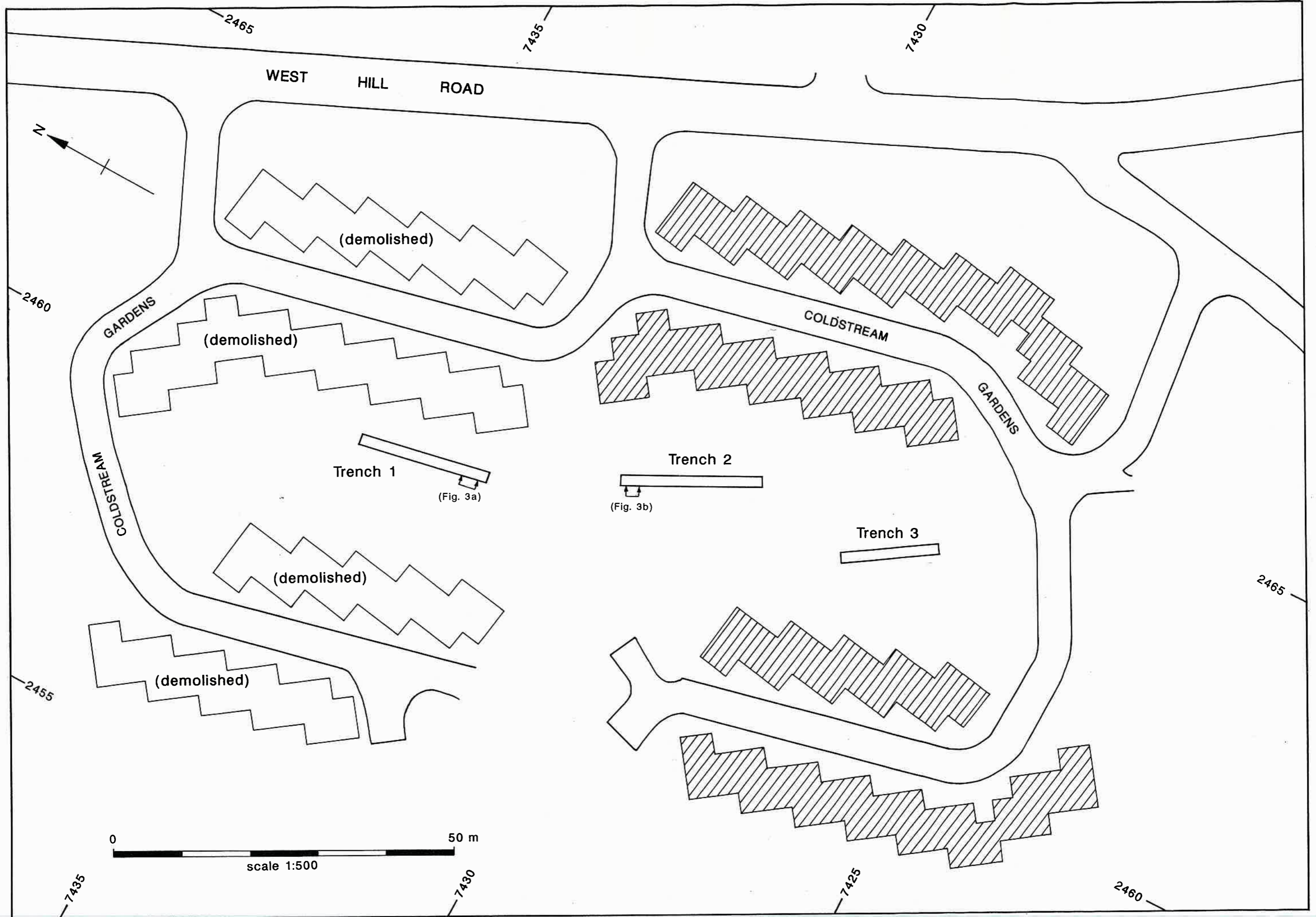


Figure 2

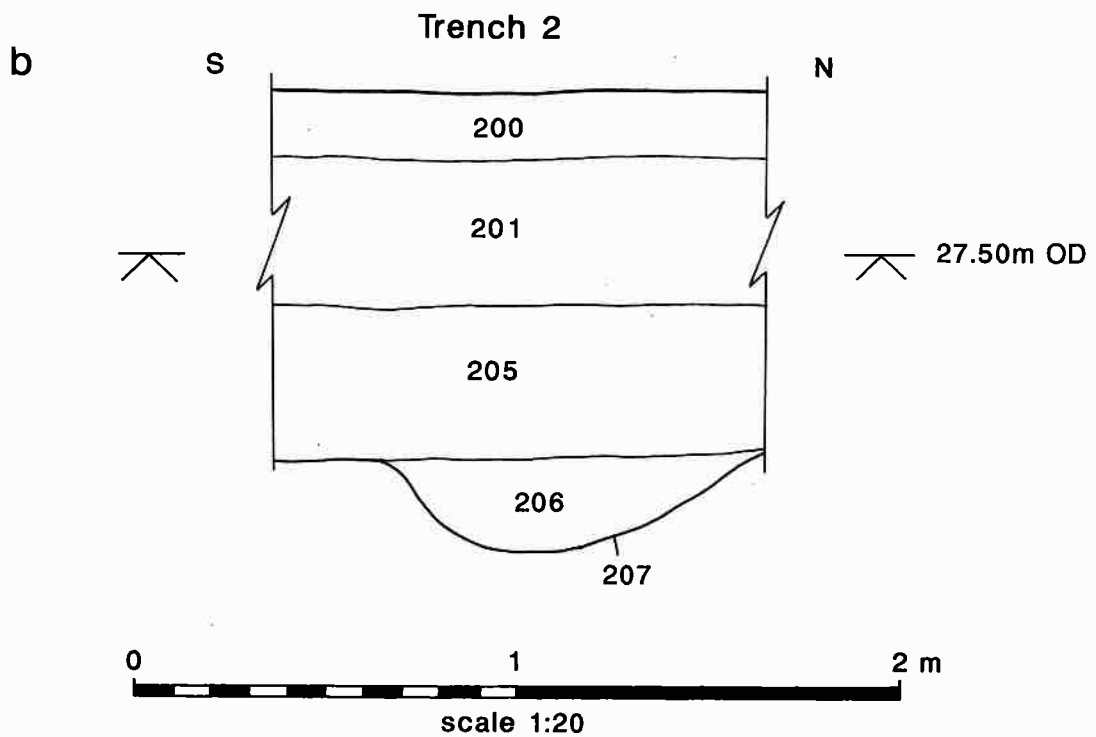
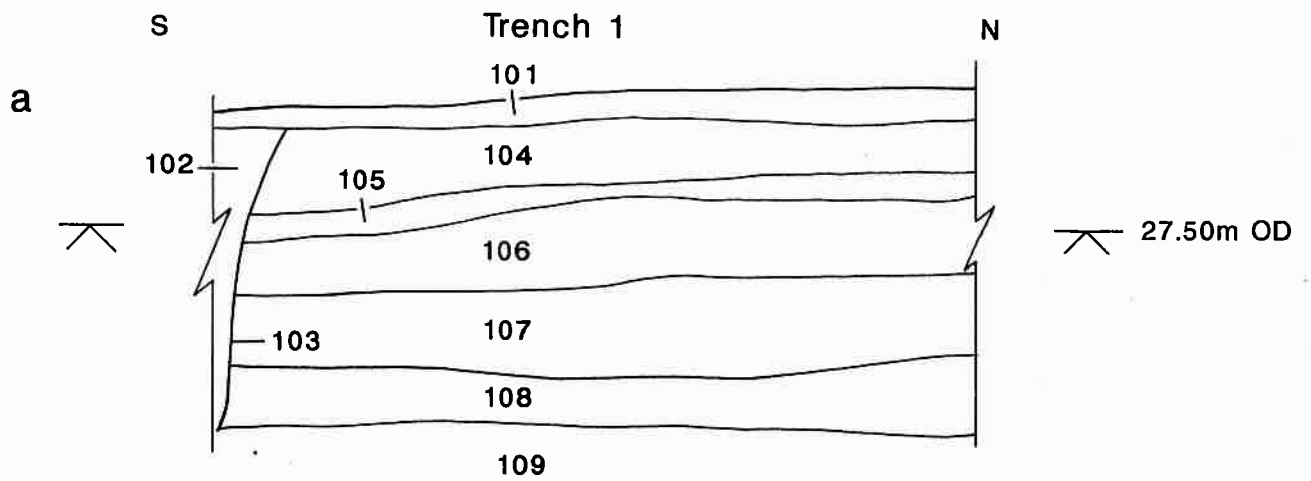


Figure 3



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EP

Head Office Tel: 01865 243888 Fax: 01865 793496

Post-Excavation Tel: 01865 204642 Fax: 01865 204637



Director: David Miles B.A., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

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