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Central Middlesex Hospital,  
Acton Lane, Barrett's Green Road,  
London, NW10

NGR TQ 2020 8320

Archaeological Evaluation Report

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

July 1994

**CENTRAL MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL, ACTON LANE,  
BARRETT'S GREEN ROAD, LONDON, NW10  
TQ 20208320**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION, JULY 1994**

***Summary***

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a field evaluation of land between the Central Middlesex Hospital, Acton Lane, London, and the Grand Union Canal on the 5th to the 8th of July 1994. Twenty trenches were excavated of which only trench 19 contained any archaeology, a single ditch of 19th century date.*

**Introduction**

The evaluation site lies on land owned by the Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust, and an application has been made to the London Borough of Brent to develop the property. A condition was imposed, requiring that an archaeological evaluation of the site should be undertaken in order to assess the nature, date, extent and condition of any archaeological deposits and OAU was commissioned to undertake the evaluation. The fieldwork took place from the 5th to the 8th of July 1994.

**Archaeological and Topographical Background**

The proposed development site is flat and has recently been used as allotments. There is no record of any archaeology on the site. East of the site a hoard of Late Bronze Age (c. 1200 to 800 BC) bronze socketed axeheads and pieces of scrap metal was found in Disraeli Road in 1975. Subsequent evaluation of sites in Disraeli Road and Steele Road in 1984 found pits containing medieval pottery related to the medieval village of East Twyford that once lay around Acton Lane, but had largely been deserted by the post-medieval period.

**Methodology**

Twenty trenches were excavated. All were 1.85m wide; twelve were 20m long, two 10m long and six 50m long giving an approximate 1.5% sample of the development area. The trenches were sited to provide overall coverage of the site but on the basis of the previous discoveries were concentrated at the east side (Figure 1). The trenches were excavated using a 360° excavator with a 6' toothless bucket down to the top of natural geology, here being London clay. The resulting surface was cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological

features in accordance with the project brief and specification. Weather conditions were good whilst the fieldwork was in progress.

## **Results**

In all trenches a dark brown silty loam topsoil overlay alluvial clays. Within the alluvial deposits distinctions were not always clear and the number of such deposits identified varied from trench to trench (see Table of Contexts). One of these clays was in some trenches distinguished by a sparse scatter of charcoal flecks, but this was not accompanied by any artifactual material. The lowest deposit exposed in each trench was sterile London clay.

There were land drains in many of the trenches, aligned east to west. The only trench to contain an archaeological feature was number 19. Feature 19/5 was a cut for a drainage ditch or land boundary aligned approximately west-east (Figures 1 and 2), whose fill (19/6) contained 3 pieces of 19th century pottery.

## **Finds**

Two pieces of transfer printed ware and one piece of porcelain were recovered from the 19th century gully (19/5) in trench 19. They are all 19th to 20th century in date.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluated sample of the proposed development site was archaeologically sterile. While the sample evaluation was low on the west side of the site, the absence of any finds at all suggests that no significant archaeological deposits exist on the site.

**Table of Contexts, Central Middlesex Hospital**

Context	Type	Depth (m)	Comments
<b>Trench 1</b>			
1/1	Layer	0.3	Topsoil
1/2	Layer	0.11	Mixed topsoil & alluvium - cultivation horizon
1/3	Layer	0.3	Clay - alluvial
1/4	Layer	unknown	Clay - London
<b>Trench 2</b>			
2/1	Layer	0.2	Topsoil
2/2	Layer	0.36	Mixed topsoil & alluvium - cultivation horizon
2/3	Layer	0.16	Clay - alluvial
2/4	Layer	0.18	Clay - alluvial
2/5	Layer	0.14	Clay - alluvial
2/6	Layer	0.09	Clay - London
<b>Trench 3</b>			
3/1	Layer	0.22	Topsoil
3/2	Layer	0.17	Mixed topsoil & alluvium - cultivation horizon
3/3	Layer	0.2	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
3/4	Layer	0.14	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
3/5	Layer	0.1	Clay - London
<b>Trench 4</b>			
4/1	Layer	0.26	Topsoil with charcoal inclusions
4/2	Layer	0.2	Mixed topsoil & alluvium - cultivation horizon
4/3	Layer	0.28	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
4/4	Layer	0.22	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
4/5	Layer	0.1	Clay - London

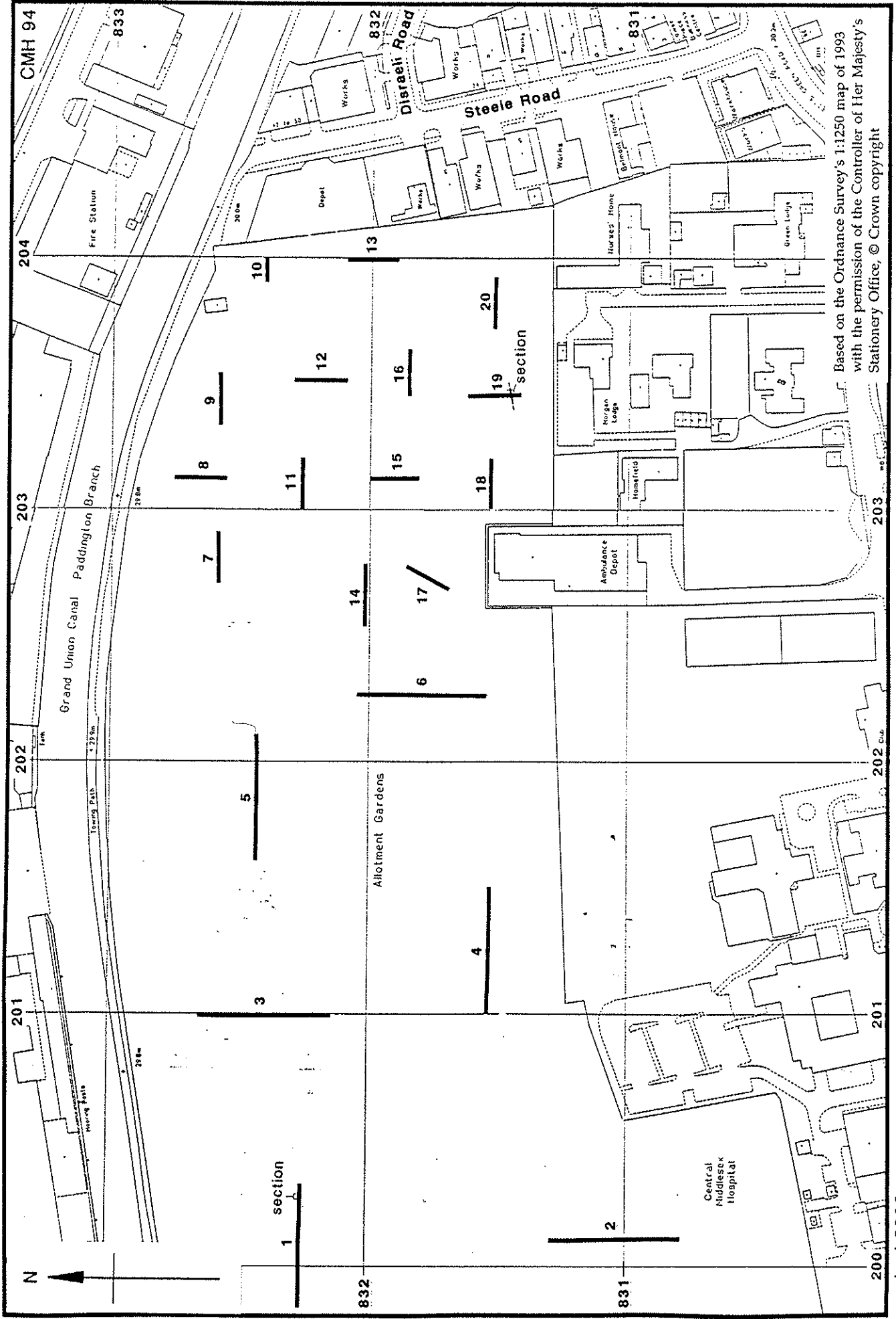
<b>Trench 5</b>			
5/1	Layer	0.3	Topsoil
5/2	Layer	0.1	Mixed topsoil & alluvium - cultivation horizon
5/3	Layer	0.2	Clay - alluvial
5/4	Layer	0.4	Clay - alluvial
5/5	Layer	unknown	Clay - London
<b>Trench 6</b>			
6/1	Layer	0.38	Topsoil
6/2	Layer	0.18	Mixed topsoil & alluvium - cultivation horizon
6/3	Layer	0.15	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
6/4	Layer	0.14	Clay - alluvial
6/5	Layer	unknown	Clay - London
<b>Trench 7</b>			
7/1	Layer	0.35	Topsoil (+ interface) - cultivation horizon
7/2	Layer	0.6	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
<b>Trench 8</b>			
8/1	Layer	0.3	Topsoil with charcoal inclusions
8/2	Layer	0.3	Mixed topsoil & clay with charcoal inclusions - cultivation horizon
8/3	Layer	0.24	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
8/4	Layer	0.1	Clay - London
<b>Trench 9</b>			
9/1	Layer	0.21	Topsoil
9/2	Layer	0.2	Mixed topsoil & clay - cultivation horizon
9/3	Layer	0.13	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
9/4	Layer	0.05	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions

<b>Trench 10</b>			
10/1	Layer	0.06	Topsoil
10/2	Layer	0.25	Mixed topsoil & clay with charcoal inclusions - cultivation horizon
10/3	Layer	0.25	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
10/4	Layer	0.23	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
10/5	Layer	0.15	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
<b>Trench 11</b>			
11/1	Layer	0.55	Topsoil (+ interface) with charcoal inclusions
11/2	Layer	0.45	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
<b>Trench 12</b>			
12/1	Layer	0.47	Topsoil (+ interface)
12/2	Layer	0.47	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
12/3	Layer	0.03	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
<b>Trench 13</b>			
13/1	Layer	0.4	Topsoil
13/2	Layer	0.21	Mixed topsoil & clay with charcoal inclusions - cultivation horizon
13/3	Layer	0.18	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
13/4	Layer	0.24	Clay - London
<b>Trench 14</b>			
14/1	Layer	0.33	Topsoil
14/2	Layer	0.08	Mixed topsoil & clay - cultivation horizon
14/3	Layer	0.18	Clay - alluvial
14/4	Layer	0.15	Clay - alluvial with charcoal flecks
14/5	Layer	unknown	Clay - London

<b>Trench 15</b>			
15/1	Layer	0.18	Topsoil
15/2	Layer	0.15	Mixed topsoil & clay with charcoal inclusions - cultivation horizon
15/3	Layer	0.22	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
15/4	Layer	0.1	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
15/5	Layer	0.05	Clay - London
<b>Trench 16</b>			
16/1	Layer	0.4	Topsoil (+ interface) - cultivation horizon
16/2	Layer	0.39	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
16/3	Layer	0.05	Clay - London
<b>Trench 17</b>			
17/1	Layer	0.28	Topsoil
17/2	Layer	0.1	Mixed topsoil & clay - cultivation horizon
17/3	Layer	0.2	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
17/4	Layer	0.18	Clay - alluvial
17/5	Layer	unknown	Clay - London
<b>Trench 18</b>			
18/1	Layer	0.34	Topsoil
18/2	Layer	0.08	Mixed topsoil & clay - cultivation horizon
18/3	Layer	0.2	Clay - alluvial
18/4	Layer	0.21	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
18/5	Layer	unknown	Clay - London

<b>Trench 19</b>			
19/1	Layer	0.39	Topsoil
19/2	Layer	0.28	Mixed topsoil & clay with charcoal inclusions - cultivation horizon
19/3	Layer	0.11	Clay - alluvial with charcoal inclusions
19/4	Layer	0.05	Clay - alluvial
19/5	Cut	0.4	19th century gully
19/6	Fill	0.4	Fill of 19/5
<b>Trench 20</b>			
20/1	Layer	0.34	Topsoil
20/2	Layer	0.17	Mixed topsoil & clay - cultivation horizon
20/3	Layer	0.17	Clay - alluvial
20/4	Layer	0.24	Clay - London





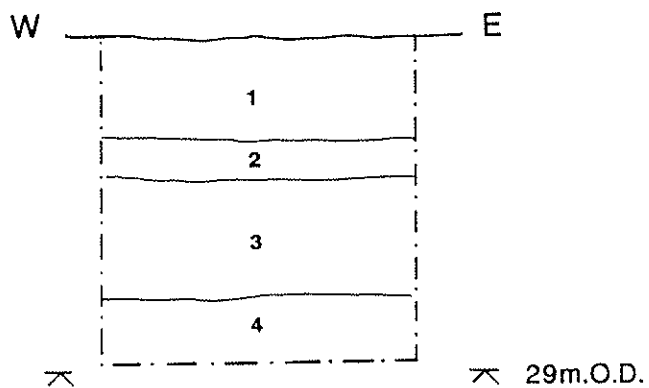
Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 map of 1993  
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figure 1

trench location

scale 1:2000

Trench 1  
section 1



Trench 19  
section 1

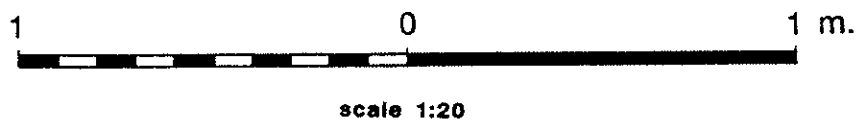
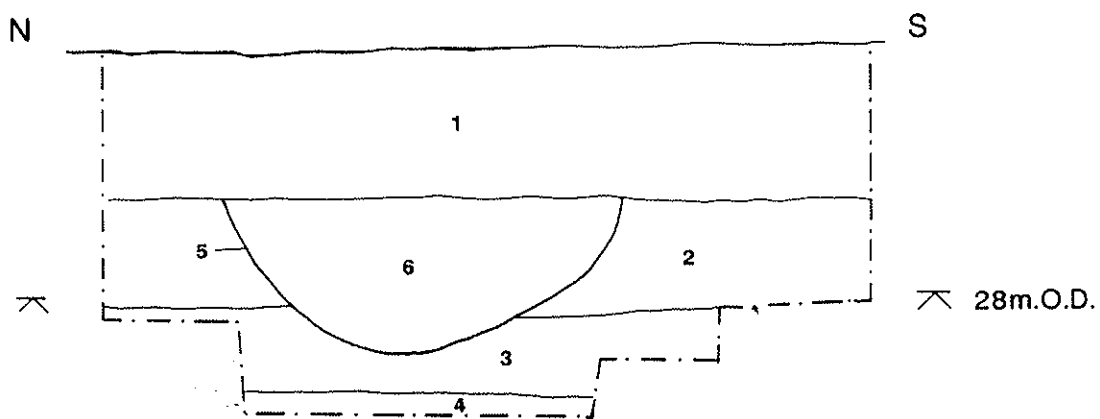


figure 2

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