

Cole and Berry / Kaleidoscope Housing Association

26-38 Cromwell Road
Kingston-upon-Thames

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

TQ 1835 6950

Planning Ref: 96/3136/HFC

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

August 1999

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Planning Ref: 96/3136/HFC

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Date: 6/3/1999

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HEAD OF FIELDWORK
Date: 6/8/1999

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

August 1999

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at Cromwell Road, Kingston-upon-Thames on behalf of architects Cole and Berry. The evaluation revealed a post-medieval ploughsoil, which was overlain by layers associated with the construction and demolition of 19th century terraced housing.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

In July 1999 the Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at Cromwell Road, Kingston-upon-Thames on behalf of Cole and Berry in respect of a planning application for a new staircase and lift (Planning Application No. 96/3136/HFC). The work was carried out to a WSI agreed with Ken Whittaker of English Heritage. The development site lay to the north-east of the historic core of Kingston-upon-Thames and is 1125 m square in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

The site lies on River Brickearth (quoting BGS map sheet 270) at just over 9 m above Ordnance Datum (A.O.D.). The site is situated on the first terrace of the River Thames.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The development site lies within an Area of Archaeological Interest. The site lies to the north-east of the medieval core of the town, which was focused next to the Thames, around All Saints Church, the Bishop's Palace, the castle, the Royal Palace, and the quayside. *Cyngestun*, Kingston-upon-Thames, was a Royal Hundredal demesne Manor of the Kings of Wessex from whom the town takes its name (King's *tun*). Archaeological and documentary evidence shows that Kingston achieved town status during the period of exceptional growth in English towns in the 12-13th centuries. The construction of a bridge provided an important strategic component of the regional transport and commercial infrastructure and generated wealth in Kingston. In the later middle ages much of the land was held in Burgage for which a quit-rent was paid; this would seem to suggest a fairly high degree of urban development. The adoption of Hampton Court as a Royal residence in the 16th century greatly influenced the economy of Kingston, which became a lodging place for courtiers.

1.3.2 A search of the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record and a previous desk based assessment carried out by the OAU (OAU December 1997) indicates that there is potential for some residual prehistoric and Roman material to be present, though the bulk of any archaeological deposits will relate to the development of Kingston-upon-Thames during the medieval and post-medieval periods. An evaluation carried out to the west of the site (No. 6 Cromwell Road) in 1995 produced a single sherd of Roman pottery recovered in a post-medieval ploughsoil. In 1992 investigations at the Bus Garage (on the north side of Cromwell Road) revealed probable medieval features which also contained residual prehistoric and Roman finds. The evaluation also revealed post-medieval features. Closer to the centre of the town there is greater amount of evidence for prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval activity. Saxon features and finds and medieval pottery industry have been recorded at Eden Street, some 400 m to the south-west of the development site.

1.3.3 The historic maps indicate that the development area was wooded parkland and pasture until the mid 19th century, when Canbury Lodge was built. This building was located just to the south-west of the site (on the east side of the north to south stretch of Clarence Street). Cromwell Road is not on the 1868 version of the OS map, but does appear by the 1898 version. The south side of Cromwell Road formed part of the Canbury Lodge grounds. By 1913 a picture theatre had been constructed to the south of the western end of Cromwell Road. The bus depot, incorporating Canbury Lodge, was built by 1932 and extended east along the south side of Cromwell Road.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, date, depth below ground surface and depth of any archaeological remains present.

To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.

If significant archaeological remains are discovered, to determine what further mitigation measures may be required and to agree these with the Kaleidoscope Housing Association, the local planning authority and English Heritage.

To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

The evaluation was based upon a 5% sample of the development area, and consisted of three trenches measuring 10 m long and 1.8 m wide (Fig. 2). The overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed deposits were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All significant archaeological deposits were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 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).

3.3 Finds

Finds were recovered during hand excavation of archaeological deposits exposed by machine excavation.

3.4 Environmental data

No environmental samples were taken.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The general soil type was a mid-brown sandy silt. Ground conditions were dry becoming slightly moist as the depth of excavation increased.

4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits

In all three trenches natural geology was encountered, at between 7.50-7.80 m A.O.D. This was overlain by an apparently natural silty sub-soil, which was overlain by a layer of ploughsoil, which was in turn overlain by the make-up, construction and demolition deposits associated with the 19th century terrace that had occupied the site until recently.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

5.1.1 *Trench 1 (E-W)*

The natural sub-soil in Trench 1 was a light orange-brown sandy silt (5) which was encountered at 7.50 m A.O.D, and which had already been seen to overly natural geology during excavation of Trenches 2 and 3. This was overlain by a mid olive-brown sandy silt with 1% gravel (4) which was 0.35 m thick and contained a single sherd of 17th/18th century pot and fragments of late medieval/early post-medieval tile. Cut into 4 was a gully [7], aligned north-south and containing sections of ceramic field drain (6). Overlying 4 was a modern make-up (3) for a layer of concrete (2) which was overlain by a layer of tarmac (1), the surface of which was at 9.36 m A.O.D.

5.1.2 *Trenches 2 and 3 (N-S and E-W respectively)*

The deposits in these trenches were almost identical and are therefore being described simultaneously, with the context numbers and measurements for Trench 2 being presented first in each instance.

The natural geology in Trenches 2 and 3 was an orange brown sandy clay (27 and 50) with 20% medium, sub-angular flint gravel, which was reached at 7.50/7.80 m A.O.D. This was overlain by a light yellow-brown sandy silt (26 and 46-49) with 3% rounded gravels, which produced no finds, and which appeared to be the equivalent to layer 5 in Trench 1. This natural sub-soil was overlain by a light grey-brown sandy silt (25 and 45) which was 0.60/0.25 m thick, with layer 45 possibly having been truncated. This layer appeared to be the equivalent of layer 4 in Trench 1, and produced clay pipe, one sherd of medieval and one sherd of post-medieval pottery and fragments of ceramic building material. Overlying this probable ploughsoil were layers of make-up (24 and 44), overlain by a construction layer with concrete foundations and brick walls (23 and 43). This was overlain by a layer of demolition (22 and 42) which was in turn overlain by a hardcore carpark surface (21 and 41), at just over 9 m A.O.D.

5.2 Finds

5.2.1 Pottery

Two sherds of pottery were recovered:

Ploughsoil 4 produced a single sherd (weighing 13 g) which consisted of a hard, pinkish-red fabric, glazed on what appears to be the inside. The glaze is a mottled yellowy-red. This sherd does not appear to date from any earlier than the 16th century.

Ploughsoil 25 produced a single sherd (weighing 3 g) which consisted of a hard, off-white fabric, glazed on what appears to be the outside. The glaze is a mottled brownish-green. This sherd does not appear to date from any earlier than the 13th century.

5.2.2 Ceramic building material

27 fragments of C.B.M. were recovered: seven from ploughsoil 4, six from ploughsoil 25 and fourteen from ploughsoil 45. All are undiagnostic pieces of roof tile, some with peg holes, and are of late medieval/early post-medieval date.

5.2.3 Clay tobacco pipe

Two pieces of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from ploughsoil 25: a piece of broken stem, and a complete bowl with a spur and a short length of stem. The bowl has been roughly dated by reference to Oswald's general typology (Oswald 1975), and appears to be a type 17, dating to between 1640 and 1670.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

Undisturbed natural geology or sub-soil was reached in each trench, and no evidence for activity other than ploughing and drainage was evident for any period up until the 19th century, when the site was developed.

The ploughsoil observed during excavation appeared largely undisturbed by this later development, apart from the possible truncation of layer 45. Although a representative sample of the ploughsoil in each trench was hand excavated, the assemblages of datable artefacts recovered were very small. It is in the nature of ploughing to cause re-deposition of finds, and therefore any conclusions about the date of these layers have to remain tentative. However, the presence of the ceramic field drain inserted into layer 4 implies that the area was still open field or parkland up until as late as the 19th century.

6.2 Overall interpretation

6.2.1 Summary of Results

Undisturbed natural geology and sub-soil was found to be overlain by a post-medieval ploughsoil. The site appeared to have remained undeveloped until terraced housing was built in the later 19th century.

6.2.2 Significance

The archaeological deposits observed during the evaluation appear to have little or no significance other than to show that the area was open land, probably parkland or pasture, and then probably part of the grounds of Canbury Lodge (see 1.3.3 above), until the later 19th century when houses were built on the site.

Bibliography and references

- Oswald A 1975 *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*, B.A.R. (Brit. Series) 14
- Oxford Archaeological Unit December 1997 69-75 Clarence Street and 24-28 Fife Street – Desk-based Archaeological Assessment (unpublished client report)
- Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First edition, August 1992)

Appendices

Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	Thic k. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
001								
	1	Layer		0.15	Tarmac			Modern
	2	Layer		0.30	Concrete and make-up			Modern
	3	Layer		0.44	Dump/make-up			?Modern
	4	Layer		0.35	Ploughsoil	Pottery Ceramic building material	1 7	Post- medieval
	5	Layer		?	Natural sub-soil			
	6	Fill		0.20	Fill , including ceramic field drain			?19th C
	7	Cut	0.25		Cut for field drain			
002								
	21	Layer		0.40	Hardcore carpark surface			Modern
	22	Layer		0.40	Demolition deposit			Modern
	23	Struct ure		0.38	Wall and foundation			19th C
	24	Layer		0.40	Construction layer			19th C
	25	Layer		0.60	ploughsoil	Pottery Clay pipe Ceramic building material	1 2 6	Post- medieval
	26	Layer		0.40	Natural sub-soil			
	27	Layer		?	Natural geology			
003								
	41	Layer		0.50	Hardcore carpark surface			Modern
	42	Layer		0.50	Demolition deposit			Modern
	43	Struct ure		0.40	Wall and foundation			19th C
	44	Layer		0.05	Construction layer			19th C
	45	Layer		0.25	ploughsoil	Ceramic building material	14	Post- medieval
	46	Layer		0.20	Natural sub-soil			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	Thic k. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	47	Layer		0.20	Natural sub-soil			
	48	Layer		0.20	Natural sub-soil			
	49	Layer		0.30	Natural sub-soil			
	50	Layer		?	Natural geology			

GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FORM

1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

2) LOCATION

Borough: Royal Borough of Kingston-upon Thames

Site address: 26-38 Cromwell Road, Kingston

Site Name: 26-38 Cromwell Road, Kingston Site Code: CRG 99

Nat. grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 1835 6950

3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: Oxford Archaeological Unit

Address: Janus House, Oseney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES

Site director/supervisor: Dan Poore

Project manager: Greg Pugh/Dan Poore

Funded by: Cole and Berry

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 26/07/99 Date finished: 28/07/99

Fieldwork previously notified? YES/NO

Fieldwork will continue? YES/NO/NOT KNOWN

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Medieval (AD 1066-1485) Post-Medieval

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

Medieval/post-medieval ploughsoil

19th century housing

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

August 1999

Cromwell Road, Kingston (CRG 99) Evaluation Report

Type: Sandy clay with river gravels, overlain by ?alluvial sandy silt.

Height above Ordnance datum: 7.5-7.8 m

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

- a) Please indicate those categories still in your possession: All of the following
- | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| NOtes | PLans | PHotos | NGtives |
| SLides | COrrrespondence | MScripts (unpub reports, etc) | |
- b) All records will be deposited in the following museum: Museum of London
- c) Approximate year of transfer: 2000
- d) Location of any copies: Microfiche with OAU and NMR
- e) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: NO

9) LOCATION OF FINDS

- a) In your possession? (delete as appropriate): ALL
- b) All finds will be deposited with the following museum body: Museum of London
- c) Approximate year of transfer:

10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

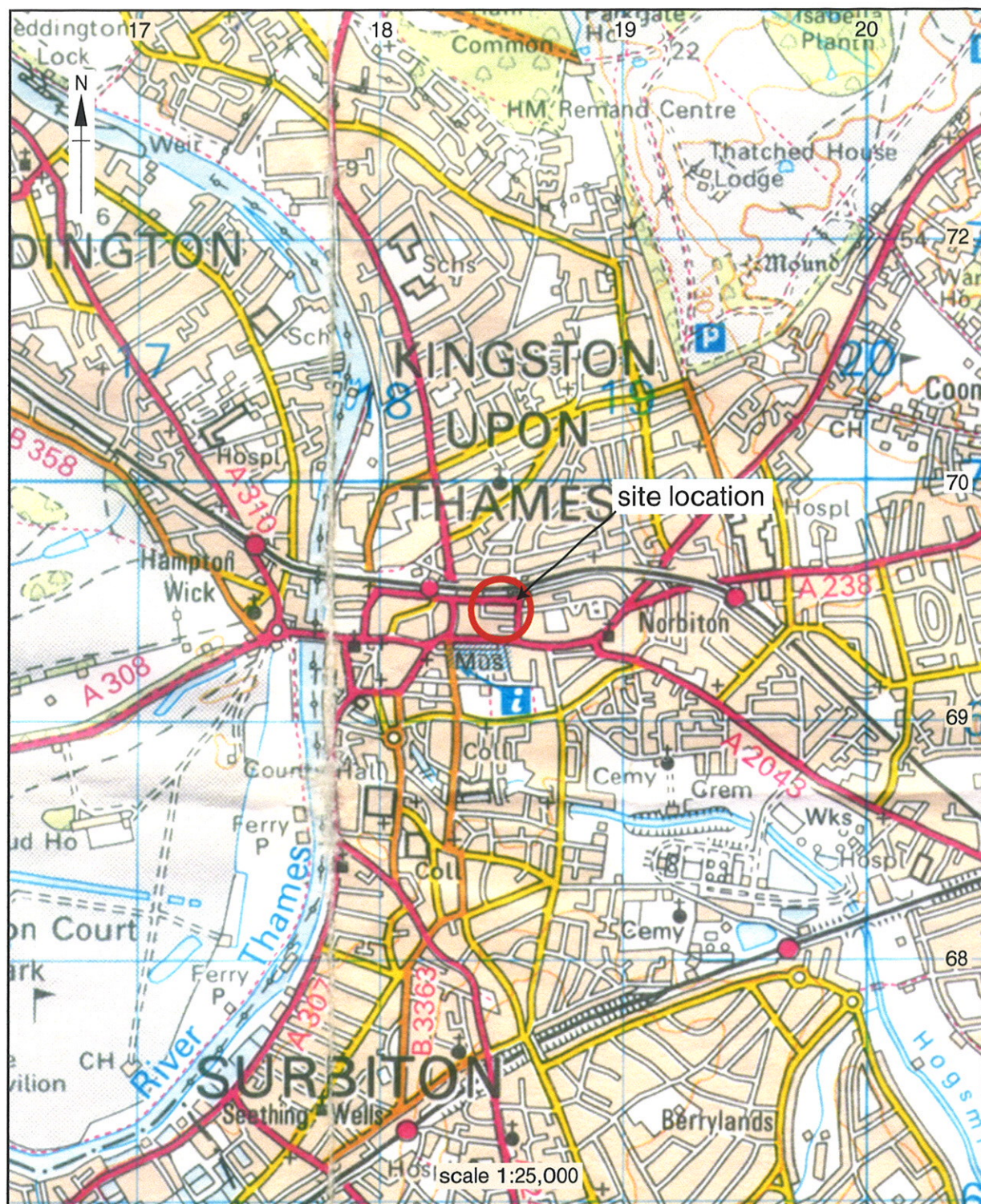
See above

SIGNED:

DATE:

NAME (Block capitals):

Please return the completed form to The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record,
English Heritage London Region, 30 Warwick Street, London W1R 5RD.
Tel 0171 973 3731/3779 (direct dial)



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figure 1: site location

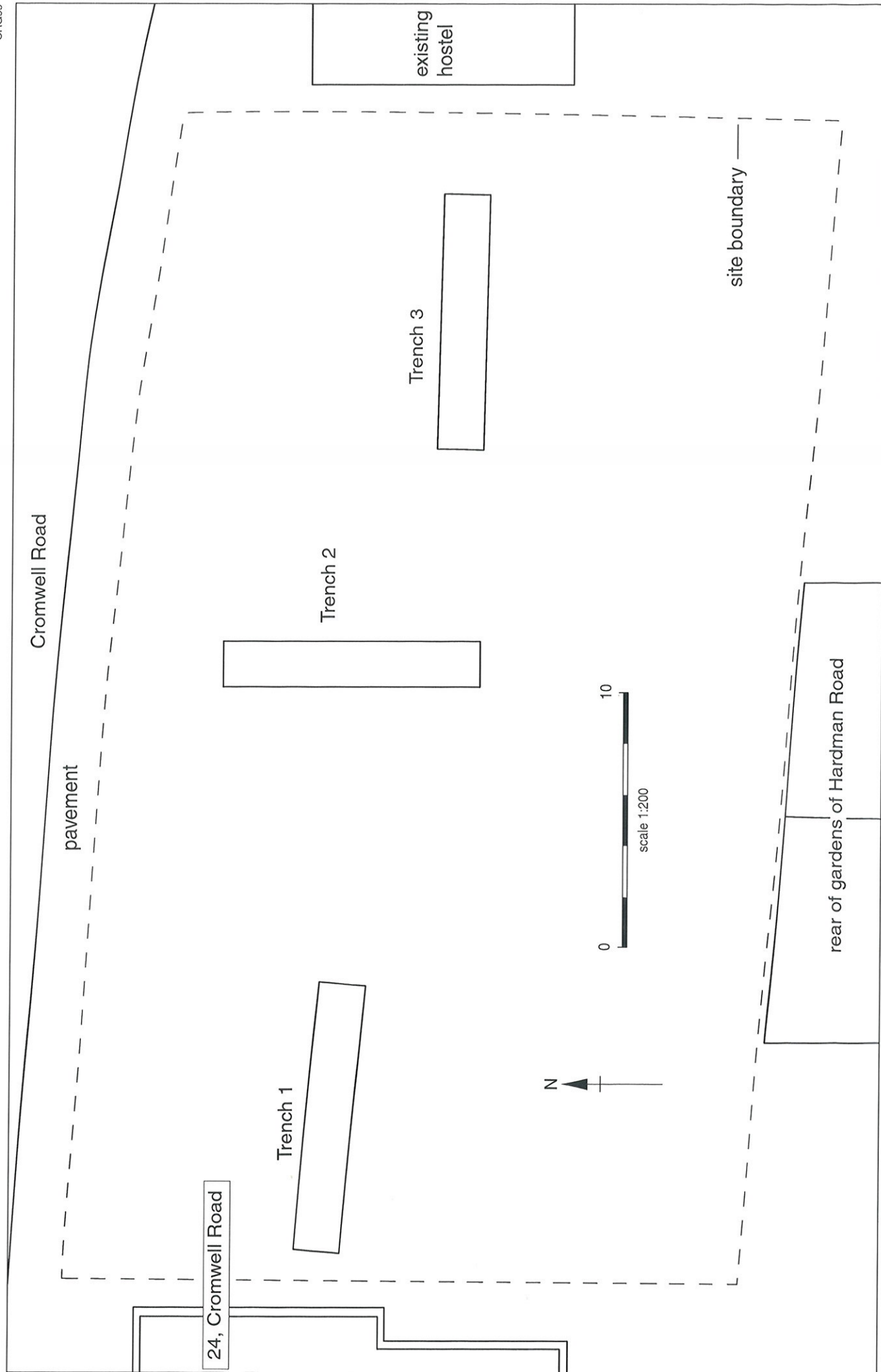


figure 2:trench location plan



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