

Banner Homes

2-4 Deerhurst Road, Cricklewood, London Borough of Brent

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR TQ 2395 8451

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May 2000

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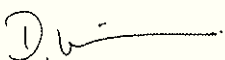
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Date: 30/5/00

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SUMMARY

In May 2000 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation in the back gardens of properties at 2-4 Deerhurst Road, Cricklewood, London Borough of Brent, on behalf of Banner Homes. The evaluation revealed a substantial north-south oriented cut for what was thought to be a moat associated with Mapesbury House, a medieval manor house known to have existed on or near the development site. Stratigraphic evidence was found to support the documentary sources, which state that the moat was backfilled in the early 17th century and the manor house rebuilt twice. The demolished remains of late 17th and 18th century buildings were also revealed. A buried soil of possible prehistoric date was also revealed in Trench 2.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In May 2000 OAU carried out a field evaluation on behalf of Banner Homes at 2-4 Deerhurst Road, Cricklewood, London Borough of Brent, in respect of a planning application for a residential development. The work was undertaken to a brief set by, and a specification (OAU February 2000) agreed with, Dr Robert Whytehead of English Heritage. The development site is situated in the location presently occupied by 2-4 Deerhurst Road (Fig. 1), and is 0.24 ha in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on London clay with current ground level at 60 m above OD. The site is situated on level ground occupied by two detached dwellings with gardens to the rear of the properties.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is reproduced from the specification.
- 1.3.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential. The existing buildings occupy the site of the medieval manor of Mapesbury House. The manor belonged to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's and may have Saxon origins, as the area of Willesden is thought to have been given to St Paul's by King Athelstan in 938.
- 1.3.3 Walter Map owned the manor in the late 12th century, but by the late 16th century the moated-house had fallen into neglect (VCH Middlesex Vol. VII). In 1603 the house was rebuilt and three sides of the moat were filled in. A new moat was constructed but this is recorded as being 'more distant' from the house. The house was rebuilt in brick in the late 17th century and it is this building which is illustrated on Roque's map of 1746 (Fig. 2). This shows four buildings and a formal garden on the junction of Deerhurst Road and Willesden Lane (then Maws Lane). The house lies adjacent to the junction, with the garden and other buildings to the east.

- 1.3.4 The house again became dilapidated, but was redeveloped as a horse-training centre in 1826. The OS map of 1894-96 shows the house located further from Willesden Lane surrounded by a complex of buildings, a lodge, a formal garden and paddocks. A Presbyterian Church lies on the west side of Deerhurst Road (now the site of the Shree Swaminarayan Temple) and the Metropolitan Railway extension line has been constructed just to the north. The 1915 edition of the OS shows the centre to be relatively unchanged, but there is a marked increase in the development of the surrounding area. Indeed, between 1811 and 1901 the population of Willesden had grown from 751 to 100,000. The horse-training centre was closed in 1916 and was demolished in 1925.

1.4 Evaluation aims

- 1.4.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area and to determine the extent, thickness, condition, nature, character, quality, date, depth below ground surface and overall depth of any archaeological remains present. In particular to locate and assess the survival of the medieval manor and the subsequent buildings, moats and gardens that once existed in or around the site.
- 1.4.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 1.4.3 If significant archaeological remains are discovered, to determine what further mitigation measures may be required and to agree these with the Local Planning Authority and English Heritage.
- 1.4.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

1.5 Scope of fieldwork

- 1.5.1 The evaluation consisted of two trenches each measuring 20 m (east-west) and 1.60 m wide (Figs 1 and 3). The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

1.6 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 1.6.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features 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).

1.7 Finds

- 1.7.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

1.8 Presentation of results

- 1.8.1 In the following sections the deposits are described trench by trench. There is additional comment on the finds and the reliability of the results. A context inventory, including finds lists, is included in Appendix 1. The stratigraphy of each trench is described individually, from earliest to latest, and a discussion and interpretation of the archaeology then follows.

2 RESULTS: GENERAL

2.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 2.1.1 The site is located on garden soils of clay loam overlaying silt clay subsoil and firm London clay.
- 2.1.2 Archaeological evidence was encountered in both trenches. Trench 1 contained an area of what is interpreted as an east/west oriented moat associated with the medieval (or later) manor house. This appeared to have been backfilled during the 17th century. Further evidence for activity during the 17th century included a cobbled surface and probably an associated garden soil. Trench 2 contained a possible prehistoric soil horizon which was cut by a brick culvert, probably of 17th century date, associated with the post-medieval building known as Maps House. A small number of demolished brick walls likely to be part of 19th and 20th century outbuildings were also located in Trench 2.

3 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

3.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 3.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the garden area to the rear of No. 2, Deerhurst Road. A firm, mid-brown natural clay (119, 118) was encountered at approximately 1.20 m below ground (59.00 m OD). A north-south oriented cut (117), c 12.50 m wide, was seen but not excavated due to limits imposed by safety restrictions (as agreed with Robert Whytehead of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service prior to the start of fieldwork). Data from a previous investigation of the site (iGES March 2000, trial pit log) suggests that 117 may be up to 3.25 m deep from current ground level, and filled with a grey silt clay containing brick and tile fragments. Only the top of the final fill of cut 117 was seen during the evaluation, which was a sandy clay (116). Cut 117 was sealed by a horizon of sandy gravel (115), 0.4 m thick and containing a single sherd of pot dating to the 16th century. This was followed by a 0.06 m thick make-up layer of a similar material (114), and a layer of cobble stones 0.15 m thick (112) then a clay loam garden soil (113). These deposits were overlain by a further gravel make-up layer or surface (111), containing pottery dating to the 19th century. This was cut by a pit at least 4 m wide (108), filled with an ashy deposit containing pottery dating to the late 19th century (107). A service trench (110) and a series of 19th/20th make-up layers up to 0.5 m thick (102-106) were overlaid by topsoil and turf (101). For more details see Appendix 1, Archaeological Context Inventory.

3.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

- 3.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the garden to the rear of No.4, Deerhurst Road. A firm mid brown clay natural was encountered at approximately 58.50 m above OD (223). This was overlain by light grey silt clay (222), 0.15 m thick and containing sparse charcoal fragments, and interpreted as a possible buried soil. This deposit was overlaid by up to 0.40 m of an archaeologically sterile mid-brown silt clay (221). A brick culvert running north-south (219) contained bricks measuring 0.2 x 0.11 x 0.06 m; it was partly demolished by cut 207, and was also used as a foundation for a brick wall (214) which contained bricks measuring 0.22 x 0.10 x 0.07 m. To the east of wall 214 was a substantial cut (218), also oriented north-south, which contained what appeared to be the remains of a demolished wall (213) and may be associated with truncation during demolition. This was overlaid by a mixed clay loam soil horizon (217) containing a small number of ?late 17th century clay pipe fragments. An orange gravel surface (212) which overlaid the soil horizon was cut by two modern service trenches (205, 203) oriented north-south. The remains of two further north-south oriented demolished walls (224, 208), which cut the sub-soil 221, were located towards the western end of the trench. The foundations of an east-west oriented wall (210) also extended beyond the western limits of the trench. All three walls contained bricks of similar dimensions to those of wall 214. Wall 210 was overlain by the topsoil/turf (200). For more details see Appendix 1, Archaeological Context Inventory.

3.3 Finds

Pottery

- 3.3.1 A small assemblage of pottery was retrieved from Trench 1. Context 116 contained a single sherd of Tudor greenware dating to the 16th century. Contexts 111, 107 and 112 in Trench 1 all contained glazed stoneware, glazed earthenware and blue and white ceramics dating to the 19th century.

Clay pipe

- 3.3.2 Trench 2 had only one deposit (217) which contained finds in the form of a small assemblage of fragmentary clay pipe bowls and stems. The clay pipe bowls were of a form dateable to the late 17th century.

3.4 Environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the evaluation.

4 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 contained a large north-south oriented feature, which may be 3.25 m deep from current ground level. This feature probably represents a section of one of the two documented moats associated with Mapesbury House, part of a known medieval

manor. The original moat is documented as having been backfilled in 1603 (VCH Middlesex Vol.VII). The medieval manor house was rebuilt twice in the 17th century. The make-up layers 115 and 114 together with the overlying cobbled surface (112) may relate to one of these rebuilds. The clay loam 113 may represent a garden soil also of this period. Unfortunately, no datable finds were recovered from these contexts to confirm this interpretation. A small pit [108] filled with an ashy deposit containing 19th century pottery cut the cobbled surface (112) and the clay loam (113) - this feature is likely to relate to the horse-training centre.

- 4.1.2 Trench 2 contained a mixed silt clay layer with charcoal fragments (222) located immediately above the natural clay. This context was overlain by a relatively deep, undisturbed, silt clay sub-soil (221). This suggests that context 222 was of a significantly earlier date than the other archaeological evidence found in the evaluation trenches. No dateable evidence was retrieved from context 222 but it may represent a prehistoric buried soil. The brick culvert 219 was partially demolished and a brick wall (214) constructed over it on the same alignment. A possible 17th century date may be assigned to the culvert, based on the dimensions of the bricks, and the relationship of the structure to the overlying wall (214). A small assemblage of clay pipe bowls and stems date a demolition horizon (217), probably associated with the remains of demolished wall 213, to the late 17th century. These structures would therefore be associated with the 17th century building known as Maps House (Fig 2). The remains of three other walls (224, 208, 213) probably represented buildings of 18th or 19th century date, due to their stratigraphic position and the slightly larger bricks used. The buildings all appear to have been demolished during the late 19th or early 20th century.

4.2 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.2.1 The integrity of the stratigraphic evidence encountered during the evaluation is believed to be good, although safety limits restricted the depths to which excavation of the possible moat could be extended. Although the areas of Trenches 1 and 2 represent a fairly large percentage of the whole development area, the western half of the site was not evaluated due to the presence of the houses.

4.3 Overall interpretation

- 4.3.1 In Trench 1, the evaluation located what is believed to be a remnant of one of the moats associated with Mapesbury House. It cannot be said with certainty whether this is the original medieval moat or the re-dug feature from the early 17th century. The exact site of the medieval manor house is not known, but that of the later house would appear to be well south of the development area (Fig. 2). If the excavated feature is the later moat, it would seem to be associated with outbuildings and/or gardens. An east-west arm of the moat, or a parallel north-south arm, may also survive on the site. Of the seven trial pits dug by iGES in March 2000, only two found evidence of deep features. One is that mentioned in section 3.1.1, suggesting a feature 3.25 m deep from current ground level. The other was located towards the

rear of the garden of no. 4, and suggests a feature 4.8 m deep from current ground level. This may be an arm of one of the moats, but it is also worth considering the possibility of other deep features being present on the site, such as fish ponds. An occupation horizon comprising a cobbled surface and a garden soil possibly dates to the late 17th century rebuilds of the manor house, by now known as Maps House (see Fig. 2). In Trench 2, a possible buried soil was overlaid by relatively deep sub-soil indicating the layer to be significantly earlier than the other deposits found. The sub-soil was cut by a brick culvert probably associated with the 17th century manor house and numerous, partly demolished, brick walls and services of 18th and 19th century date.

5 IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1.1 The impact of the proposed development is likely to be fairly localised, in the form of either piles and/or strip foundations for the houses, with associated access roads and service trenches. Where archaeologically significant walls lie fairly close to the current ground surface, these localised impacts may be fairly severe, particularly if strip foundation trenches rather than piles are to be used. Although actual levels of impact are not available at present, it is assumed that the potentially significant deposits in the possible moat, especially the archaeologically important primary fills, are likely to escape severe disturbance due to their depth below current ground level.
- 5.1.2 According to information supplied by Banner Homes, Plots 3-7 inclusive will be piled. At present, Plots 1 and 2 may still be constructed using traditional strip foundations. However, due to the influence of the existing trees alongside Plot 2, it is likely that that unit will also be piled.

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>Finds</i>	<i>No/ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
001								
	100	Layer	>1.60	0.32	Modern topsoil and turf			
	101	Layer	>1.60	0.25	Modern Clay dump			
	102	Layer	>1.60	0.55	Brick rubble			
	103	Layer	>1.60	0.10	Make-up dump			
	104	Layer	>1.60	0.12	Demolition/make-up			
	105	Layer		0.20				
	106	Layer	>0.50	0.08	Demolition			
	107	Fill	>0.40	0.75	Clay/Ash	Pot		19 th c
	108	Cut	>0.40	0.75	Refuse pit			
	109	Fill	>0.20	0.25	Backfill			
	110	Cut	>0.20	0.25	Pipe trench			
	111	Layer	>0.30	0.30	Make-up/garden path	Pot		19 th c
	112	Layer	c.0.40	0.15	Cobbled surface	Pot		19 th c
	113	Layer	0.40	0.25	Garden soil ?			
	114	Layer	>0.40	0.60	Make-up			
	115	Layer	>18.50	?	Layer sealing moat			
	116	Layer	>18.50	?	Moat backfill	Pot		
	117	Cut	>12.50	?	Moat ?			
	118	Layer	>6.75	?	Natural clay			
	119	Layer	>0.40	?	Natural clay/gravel			
002								
	200	Layer	>1.60	0.30	Topsoil/turf			
	201	Layer	>1.60	0.30	Clay dump			
	202	Fill	0.60	0.37	Sand/Ash			
	203	Cut	0.60	0.37	Service trench			
	204	Fill	0.60	0.45	Clay loam			
	205	Cut	0.60	0.45	Service trench			
	206	Fill	0.25	0.45	Brick rubble			

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Find</i> s	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
	207	Cut	0.25	0.45	Demolition			
	208	Fill	1.45		Brick rubble			
	209	Cut	1.45	0.30	Demolition			
	210	Struct		-	Brick wall			
	211	Cut	>0.65	-	Construction for wall 210			
	212	Layer	>1.60	0.22	Gravel surface			
	213	Fill	>6.00		Demolition			
	214	Struct	>0.45		Brick wall			
	215	Fill	0.50	0.50	Demolition			
	216	Cut	1.80	0.50	Construction for wall 214			
	217	Fill	>1.60		Demolition	Clay pipe		1.17 the c
	218	Cut	>1.60		Demolition			
	219	Struct	0.85		Culvert			
	220	Cut	0.85		Culvert construction cut			
	221	Layer		0.40	Sub-soil			
	222	Layer	>1.60		?Buried soil			
	223	Layer	>1.60		Natural clay			
	224	Fill	0.65		Demolition			
	225	Cut	0.70		Demolition			

APPENDIX 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| iGES March 2000 | Trial pit report |
| OAU February 2000 | Specification for an archaeological evaluation at Nos 2-4 Deerpurst Road, Cricklewood, London Borough of Brent |
| Wilkinson D (ed) 1992 | <i>Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual</i> (unpub.) |

APPENDIX 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM**1) TYPE OF RECORDING**

Evaluation

2) LOCATION

Borough: Brent

Site address: 2/4 Deerpurst Road

Site Name: As above

Site Code: DRR00

Nat. grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 2395 8451

3) ORGANISATION

Oxford Archaeological Unit

Address: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

Site director/supervisor: Andy Mayes

Project manager: Dan Poore

Funded by: Banner Homes

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started 2/5/00 Date finished: 12/5/00

Fieldwork previously notified? NO

Fieldwork will continue? NOT KNOWN

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Medieval (AD 1066-1485), Post-Medieval, Unknown

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES

Unknown: possibly prehistoric buried soil.

Medieval: moat cut.

Post Medieval: moat backfill, brick culvert, brick walls.

7) NATURAL

Type: London clay

Height above Ordnance datum: 58.5 m OD

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

- a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

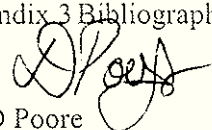
Notes 100 sheets	Plans 1	PHotos	Ngatives 60
Slides 60	COrrrespondence	MScripts (unpub reports, etc)	
BULK finds 12 bags	SMall finds none	SOil samples none	
OTher			

- b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location: MOLAS Archive 46 Eagle Wharf Road, Hackney, London N17EE
- c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: Will be made prior to deposition

10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

See Appendix 3 Bibliography and references

SIGNED:



DATE:

24/05/00

NAME D Poore



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Figure 1: site location.

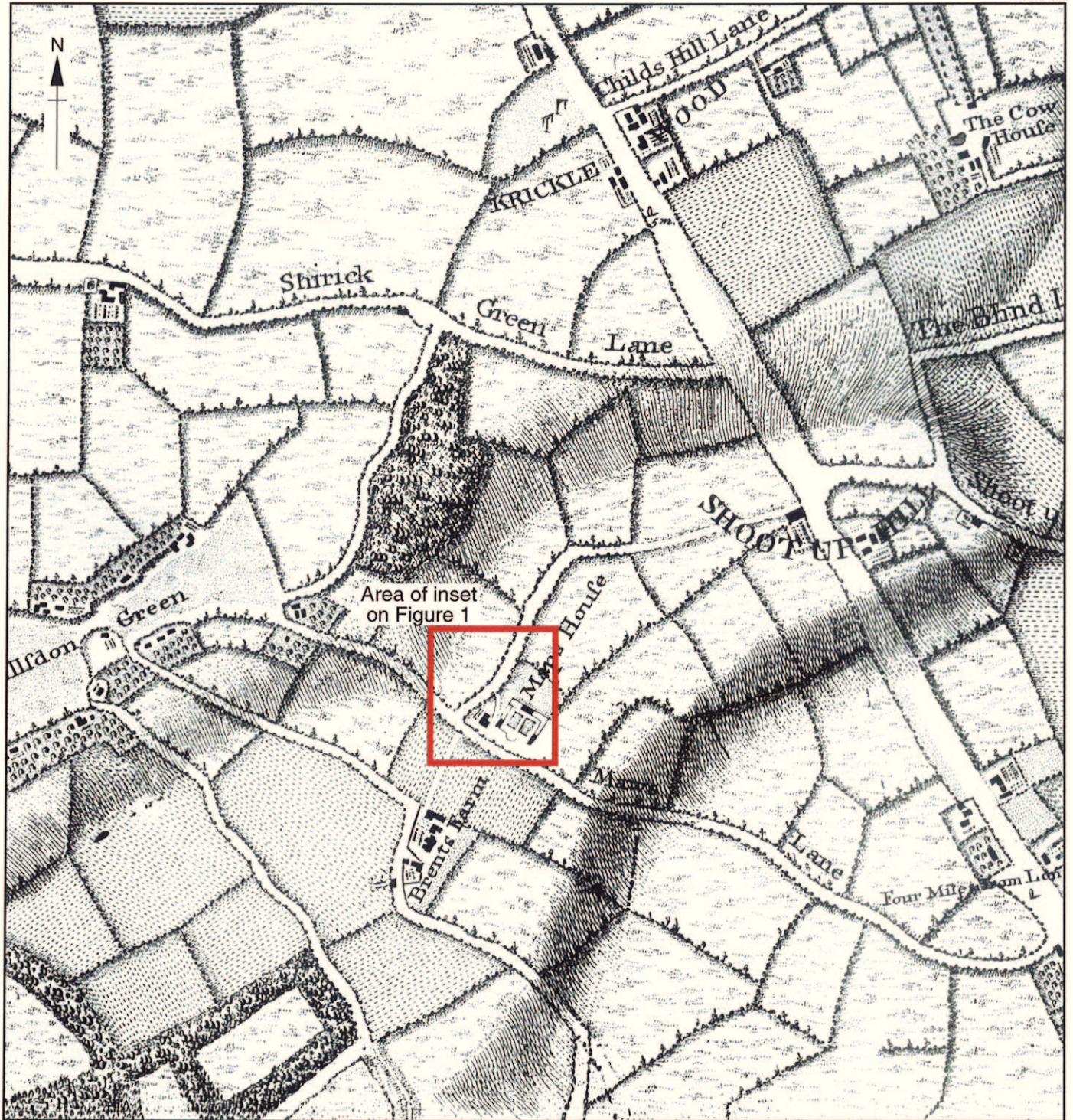
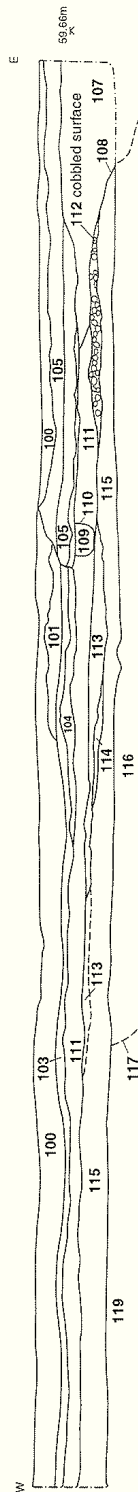


Figure 2: Detail of Roques Map (1748) showing Maps House.

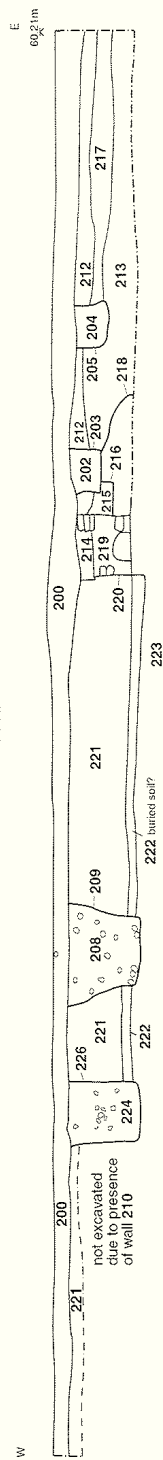
Trench 1
Section



Trench 1
Plan



Trench 2
Section



Trench 2
Plan

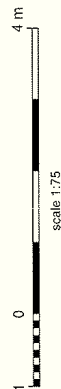
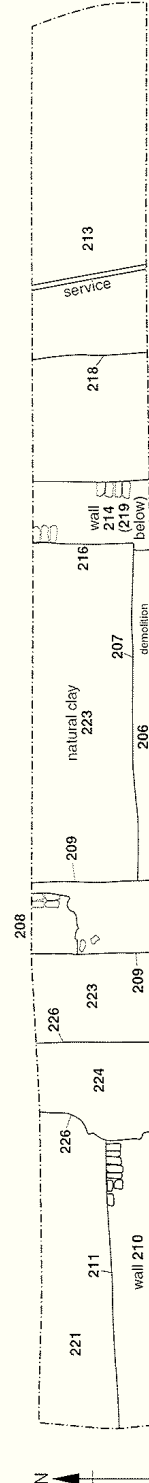


Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2, plans and sections.



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