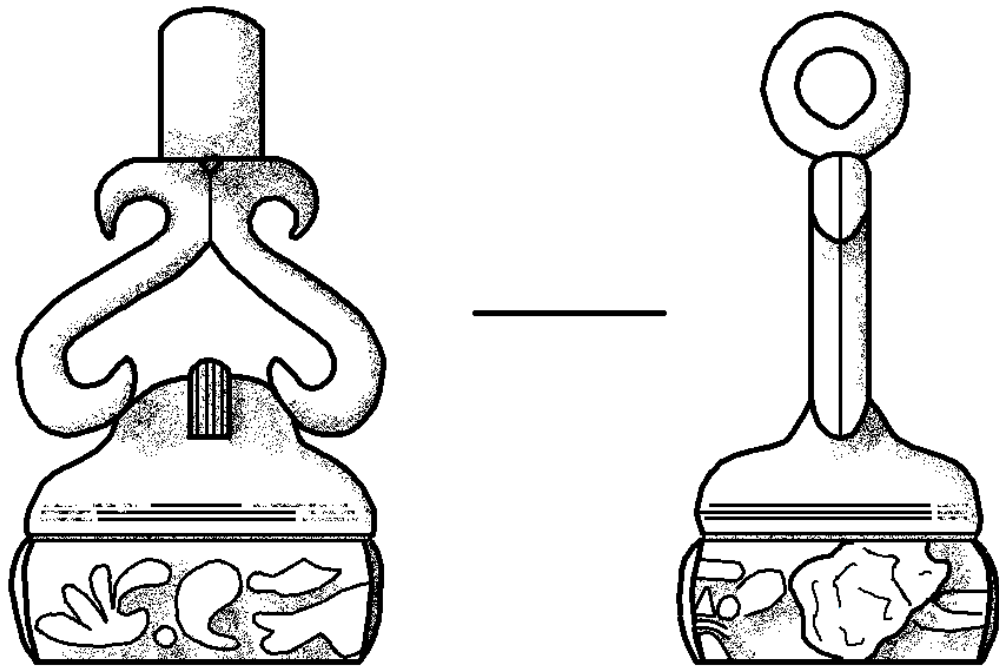


ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVE REPORT



EXCAVATION OF A WATER FEATURE IN THE FORMER GARDEN OF BROOMFIELD HOUSE, SOUTHGATE, APRIL/MAY 2025

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by
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1 ABSTRACT

- Excavation of two trenches and two test pits in the former garden of the Grade II* listed Broomfield House showed that a garden ‘canal’, created by excavating down to natural brickearth and edging it with dumped natural gravel banks, on one side at least resting on possible leached mortar foundations in linear construction trenches, probably gradually sited up before being partly infilled, perhaps in the early to mid nineteenth century, and subsequently continued to fully silt up. The date of construction of the ‘canal’ and associated gravel paths that probably defined a wider formal garden layout also revealed by grass marks was not established, but they might have been part of an early eighteenth century Dutch inspired Baroque water garden, other elements of which are extant.

2 INTRODUCTION AND SITE/PROJECT DETAILS

- This report details the findings of an archaeological excavation commissioned by John Cole, LBE ‘Unlocking Broomfield’ Community Engagement Officer, in December 2024 and carried out on 26th – 27th April and 3rd – 5th May 2025.
- The excavation was part of the LBE ‘Unlocking Broomfield for the Community’ initiative supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and which also acted as a focus for public outreach activities. It was complimented by a public open day on the 3rd May 2025 and by a programme of schools outreach work by the EAS which will be reported separately.
- This report draws on a project design (Dearne 2024) produced for John Cole in November 2024.
- The site (Fig. 1) represents part of the former gardens of the Grade II* listed Broomfield House, now part of the LBE owned Broomfield Park, and the excavation was undertaken as a research exercise aimed at better understanding the development, plan and chronology of the gardens surrounding the house.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The objectives of the evaluation excavation were:

- to establish the form, date and function of a presumed water feature known from previous archaeological evidence; to establish whether it was connected to other water features known to exist on the site; and to establish the date and nature of its abandonment and infilling.

The excavation methodology was: (Fig. 2)

- Trench 1 represented a full transect across the water feature, including sufficient areas either side of it to establish whether features such as garden paths were present flanking it in order to begin to contextualise the feature within any formal garden layout that existed. It was 7.00 m long (east west) and 1.50 m wide with more limited excavation of a 3.00 m long, 0.75 m wide extension on the north side of its west end.
- Trench 2 was sited at the northern end of the water feature to establish its northerly extent and whether it was supplied with water through a culvert as had previously been hypothesised. It was 2.00 x 2.00 m.
- Two further test pits were cut in the vicinity of the west end of Trench 1 to answer specific questions about the associated path layout, Test Pit 1 being 1.80 m east west by 0.30 m and Test Pit 2 0.30 x 0.30 m.
- All excavation was by hand and selectively to natural.
- The excavations were single context recorded using EAS context sheets and other pro formas, digital photographs, plans and sections drawn at an appropriate scale and spot heights, all recording being with respect to existing fixed OS grid point markers.
- All non twentieth/twenty first century finds except cbm were collected from all contexts and spoil was metal detected.
- The location of trenches was recorded by plans drawn at 1:250 and 1:500.
- Trenches were machine backfilled immediately on completion of the work.

4 GENERAL HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- Broomfield Park is a public park in Southgate in the ownership of the LBE and represents the former grounds of Broomfield House. The park is bounded on the north by Aldermans Hill, on the west by Cannon Hill, on the south by Powys Lane/Broomfield Lane and on the east by housing along Broomfield Avenue.
- The natural geology of the site, laying at approximately +42.183 m OD, is brickearth of the Enfield Silt Deposits overlying Lea Valley Terrace Gravels, found by AOC (Archaeology) nearby to lay at c. +40.3 m OD.
- The Grade II* listed Broomfield House's origins are fairly poorly understood. The core of the now badly fire damaged house is known to be sixteenth century in date (Brindle 1992; 1994) and the bounding walls of the garden around it on the east and probably north are likely to be broadly contemporary (AOC 1997, Appendix B, Section 3). The site is marked on a map of 1599 (Brindle 1992; 1994) and might have been named after John Broomfield, a London currier, who held land (apparently including the site of Broomfield House) in Southgate. In 1566 he sold this land to Geoffrey Walkeden, though by 1593 Richard Skevington was at least the lessee at Broomfield (VCH, 158). By 1599 the house had passed to alderman Sir John Spencer who was still there in 1606, but by 1624 it had evidently been sold as Joseph Jackson, a London merchant, owned it (Brindle 1992; 1994; VCH, 158).
- The house was altered in the early eighteenth century when a staircase with a significant set of murals (dated 1726) by Gerald Lanscroom was installed (Brindle 1994, 13ff; Donald Insall Associates 2016, 8f). The Grade II Department of the Environment/Historic England registered gardens of the house include the (unusually) partly surviving 'Dutch' style Baroque water garden surrounding it, which is presumed to be contemporary with the early eighteenth century alterations to the house, though it is first depicted on Rocque's map of Middlesex of 1754. Extant or cartographically/archaeologically known elements of it include a line of three square and rectangular ponds on the west and two canals (Brindle 1992; 1994; AOC 1997; Barker 1997).
- In 1773 the house and garden passed to Mary Jackson and her husband William Tash, a major local landowner, and in 1811 Mary Jackson willed them to Louise and Henry Phillip (Lybbe) Powys (Brindle 1992; 1994; contra VCH, 158 giving 1816 and transfer by sale not will). Further alterations to the house may belong to this period, though whether any changes to the garden occurred is unknown.
- Later nineteenth century alterations at least to the house may well have post dated 1858, when the Lybbe Powys family ceased to live there and began to lease the house out (Brindle 1992), but had occurred by 1865 when the 25" OS map shows its outline had become that in existence today.
- The house was sold to Southgate UDC in 1902/3 and used for municipal purposes until it was gutted by fire in 1984, but again the stages by which the water garden features partly or wholly disappeared during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are often unknown. An exedra on the north probably survived at least into the late nineteenth century (Brindle 1992), the three ponds can still be traced/are extant and the west boundary wall to the area occupied by them almost certainly preserves the main gated west entrance, with flanking smaller ?gated entrances and, flanking them, railing filled clairvoyees (e.g. Brindle 1992). The larger of two canals/water features on the north, and further pools leading to it, are known to have disappeared early in the twentieth century (before the creation of a boating lake in the 1930s) (op cit).
- The development of the wider park has been studied by Donald Insall Associates (2016) and is not considered in detail here, but the entrance gaps/piers in the west wall of the area containing the water gardens give on to an originally Elm (now Lime) tree avenue likely of early eighteenth century date which runs towards Cannon Hill and will have represented the main approach to Broomfield House and its surrounding gardens.
- Historically significant features within the wider park also include WWII structures including a standing former gas decontamination centre (Gillam and Jones 2019, 54) and a line of buried public air raid shelters along Aldermans Hill at the east end of the park (e.g. Pl. 1).
- The site is within an Enfield Archaeological Priority Area (e.g. LBE 2019, 66 No. 24).
- The first archaeological work known to have been carried out on the site was in 1996 when AOC (Archaeology) Ltd undertook standing wall evaluations and limited evaluation excavations (on the east

side of the house and garden including in a stable block area) on behalf of Whitbread Medway Inns in advance of an (abandoned) plan to turn the house into a restaurant (AOC 1997).

- As part of the same evaluation a selective resistivity survey including some very limited further evaluation excavation was also conducted in 1997 (Barker 1997).
- The excavations recovered evidence for planting beds/walls in some cases perhaps of the seventeenth/eighteenth centuries, but often of nineteenth century date; and identified the water feature which was the subject of the work reported here and a possible terrace area to the east of the southerly surviving water garden pond. Geophysical results included what was interpreted as an oval carriage turning circle west of the central pond (though map and illustration evidence did not further support this) and possible path or wall bounded areas further south.
- Limited excavation by the EAS in 2011 at the entrance through the west wall of the water gardens showed that a broadly ?Tudor boundary wall preceded it with what was then interpreted as a gate threshold lain above it (Dearne 2011, 4)
- Further excavations and watching briefs by the EAS in 2019 in connection with an LBE wetland creation/flood alleviation scheme (Dearne 2019) included excavational evaluation of aerial photography recorded crop marks at the west end of the park and found their cause to be broad shallow gullies probably demarking/draining a nineteenth or possibly twentieth century show/event ground and a possible path defining a ?tent position within it.
- Monitoring of the works to create the new wetland area to the west of the southerly surviving water garden pond were largely archaeologically negative and found that the only landscape modification here had been the cutting back of a break of slope (beyond the area investigated) to define an area which may have served a specified recreational purpose.
- However, in a pipe trench which ran through the entrance to the area containing the water gardens and up to the margin of their central surviving pond there was evidence for two phases of walling preceding the current boundary wall, the earlier probably incorporating a large gate foundation (rather than what had seemed to be just a gate threshold in 2011). There was also evidence for two (undated) phases of surface creation (though not a turning circle) between the water gardens and the boundary wall and just outside the boundary wall a crudely repaired vaulted brick drain was recorded.
- The replanting of the Lime tree avenue leading away from the water gardens in 2016 was archaeologically monitored by the EAS, but with negative results (Dearne 2016).

5 THE HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF THE WATER GARDENS

- Archaeologically and historically the most important features of the grounds of Broomfield House are the unusually well preserved traces of the eighteenth century Dutch inspired Baroque water gardens that formed a setting for it.
- Those elements of the water gardens to the west of the house are largely extant in the form of three large ponds, though questions remain about their exact development and form in the original eighteenth century scheme (Donald Insall Associates 2016, 13).
- To the north of the house a former canal, which may well have played a role in supplying water to the gardens, was infilled and lined with trees in the early twentieth century (Brindle 1994, 17; Donald Insall Associates 2016, 19) and is reasonably well recorded, being shown on Rocque's map of 1754, the 1801 Edmonton enclosure map and e.g. the 1865 25 inch to a mile OS map (Figs 3 and 4).
- To the north east of the house in a large open area without any current specific usage a second canal/water feature, which was the subject of the work reported here, was unknown until 1997, is not cartographically recorded and was little understood despite the possibility that it formed an integral part of the water gardens.
- It was first identified by the 1997 geophysical survey as 'a sharply defined rectangular feature showing on the resistivity survey as an area of low resistance' (AOC 1997, Appendix B, 2.2). However, research for the project design (Dearne 2024) also established that wartime aerial photographs show it clearly as a positive grass mark (Pl. 1), which was also noted on the ground later in 1997 when two 1.80 x 0.40 m keyhole trenches were cut (see Fig. 2) to establish its form.

- The report on this limited work (AOC 1997, Appendix B, 2.2) describes superficial deposits as a 0.15 – 0.17 m thick ‘dark topsoil’ overlaying a similar thickness of ‘dark soil containing pebbles, flint and small brick fragments’. Below these was ‘a very hard layer of pebbles and flint in a sandy matrix (mortar ?)’ with vertical faces c. 4.45 m apart and between them, and butting against the faces, a ‘clean brown clay’ over 0.30 m thick. The report speculated that the hard layer could have provided the foundation for removed walls, but also canvassed the possibility that the pebbles and flint could have been mixed with mortar to provide ‘a cheap bank consolidant’. While the clay was not specifically characterised, the possibility was canvassed that it could have been a ‘puddling layer’. The feature overall was interpreted as an ornamental canal and it was speculated that it could have been fed from the north via a culvert.

6 THE EXCAVATION RESULTS

See Figs 5 - 7

- The earliest deposit contacted in Trenches 1 and 2 was [9], natural brickearth of the Enfield silt deposits. This comprised compacted, sterile, yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) very clayey silt. In Trench 1 it had a surviving surface at + 41.521 m OD and in Trench 2 at +41.838 m OD, but had almost certainly been truncated to some degree at least in Trench 1 by a cut ([14], not otherwise isolated) that created the water feature under excavation. A spade cut sondage in Trench 1 with a base at + 41.338 m OD established the thickness of [9] as over 0.50 m. It was presumably the ‘clean brown clay’ over 0.30 m thick noted in 1997.
- It was apparent that the 5.00 m wide water feature had been created by making a north south cut ([14]) down to/into [9], which had served as a reasonably water tight base for it. In Trench 1 the feature was a maximum of 0.376 m deep, measuring from the top of the adjacent east bank. It may have held a lesser depth of water as its depth measuring from the surviving top of the west bank was 0.174 m, but this bank had clearly suffered damage so may originally have been higher (see further below). In Trench 2 at the north end of the water feature cut [14] rose up towards the top of an edging bank, [13], and on the south side of this trench lay 0.31 m above the level in Trench 1, suggesting that the water feature deepened as it ran south/had a slope at its north end down to a more level base.
- Whether the natural forming the base of the water feature had been puddled/rammed to increase its resistance to drainage was not certain, but its upper few centimetres in Trench 1 had pieces of red brick (to c. 0.05 m) impressed well into it and in Trench 2 pieces of over fired brick wasters up to c. 0.07 m and a few stones were similarly impressed into the surface, which may suggest that the surface had been modified in this way.
- The edges of the water feature were formed by compacted sterile banks of pebbles, almost certainly on the east constructed in a deeper linear trench cut into [9] and with either sand or fully leached mortar forming its lower horizons and, if leached mortar, possibly acting as a consolidant at least at the inner edge of this bank. Thus, in Trench 1 (Pl. 2) an irregular cut, [10], ran out from the face of the eastern bank, [5], for up to 0.44 m and is likely to have been part of one of these construction trenches which had been miscut. It had a slightly sloping west face and was at least 0.32 m deeper than cut [14] forming the base of the water feature. The excavation area was too constrained to bottom [10], but the lowest fill seen was [12], a strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) sand with moderately frequent rounded stones (0.02 – 0.05 m). Whether this was the remnant of a mortar layer from which the binding agent had been fully leached was unclear, but this must be a possibility, even if the cut had not presumably fully truncated [9] so will not have significantly compromised the water tightness of the feature.
- The remaining 0.31 m of [10] had been filled with [11], a moderately compacted, sterile deposit of rounded and some angular stones (0.02 – 0.075 m) and rare cobbles (to 0.12 m) in a matrix of strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) very gritty, very clayey silt, which was probably immediately redeposited natural Lea Valley (specifically Taplow) gravel.
- In Trench 1 the west face of [5], as revealed by the excavation of [10], was vertical, though, probably due to damage, not entirely straight and rested on a lower horizon, [7], of moderately compacted strong brown (brighter than 7.5 YR 5/8) sand with moderately frequent generally 0.02 – 0.05 m rounded stones which was very similar to [12] (Pl. 2). Especially at the top of the deposit where it did not appear to have the stone inclusions it is possible again that this was the remnant of a mortar from which the binding agent had fully leached. It was not possible to establish the full depth of this deposit without removal of the

overlying bank, which was not considered to be justifiable damage to the field monument, but it was over 0.30 m in vertical extent.

- Above [7] was the main bank, [5], formed of a 0.22 m thick deposit of densely compacted mainly rounded but sometimes angular pebbles (0.02 – 0.08 and typically 0.03 m) which here on the east side of the water feature had a flat surface which almost certainly represented a wide garden path (see further below). As with [11], [5] was probably immediately redeposited natural Taplow gravel, though it had weathered where exposed.
- The corresponding bank in Trench 1 on the west side of the water feature, [6], was more poorly preserved, but no cut equivalent to [10] was detected (Pl. 3). Here the pebble bank had clearly been damaged by a probable planting pit, [8], which was represented by a 0.08 m deep, probably overall circular pit with rounded sides cut into the bank and filled with topsoil.
- However, the bank's surface was also irregular with some rounding to the leading edge of the bank and it is likely to have suffered significant erosion and or wear. The surviving top of this bank lay 0.20 m lower than that of [5], perhaps partly reflecting the site topography which has a gentle slope down to the west, but more likely due to truncation; so again the apparent implication that the water level in the feature did not reach the top of the east bank should not be taken as established. Bank [6] may well though not have been as substantially constructed as [5]. Whilst excavation of its inner face was limited, no equivalent strong brown sand deposits were noted here and it may even only have been a rammed pebble dump at the edge of the feature which probably also acted as an over 1.36 m wide path along its west side.
- The north end of the feature was edged by another pebble bank, [13] (Pl. 4). Its surface lay 0.14 m higher than the top of the eastern bank in Trench 1, probably confirming that the water feature overall had some form of slope down to the south at least at its northern end. Both excavational evidence and adjacent parch marks also showed that it formed a rounded or apsidal end to the feature. This bank appeared to be similar to [5] and [6] and had a level surface so that it again probably formed part of a path over 1.00 m wide around the end of the feature, but it was only recorded in plan.
- In Trenches 1 and 2 three deposits were present below topsoil within the feature.¹ Immediately overlying cut [14] and so the natural [9] was [4], a, in Trench 1, 0.18 m thick brown/dark brown (10 YR 4/3) clayey silt with frequent rounded stones (0.03 – 0.08 m) and moderately frequent brick fragments (to 0.05 m) which was a little thinner in the middle of the feature. In Trench 2 it was only 0.08 m thick, but with similar inclusions. It was unclear whether this was in part a primary silt within the water feature or a post abandonment deposit, but it did not obviously represent deliberate infilling and it may have accumulated relatively gradually with its stony component partly derived from deterioration of and 'kick out' from the banks. It produced very few finds, comprising a little coal and clinker, an iron nail, a small piece of rolled lead strip, a sherd of a Refined Whiteware (REFW; 1740 – 1900+) bowl (with another from [4] or the overlying [3]) and a chip of blue on white decorated Tin Glazed Earthenware (TGW (Delft); mainly post c. 1613).
- Above it in Trench 1 was [3], a 0.08 m thick fairly compacted brown/dark brown (7.5 YR 4/2) gritty, very clayey silt (essentially a 'dirty' brickearth) with occasional charcoal fragments/smears. It thinned as it ran east and almost died out before reaching the eastern bank. In Trench 2 the same deposit was much thinner (c. 0.01 m thick) and not well differentiated from supervening and underlying deposits. At least in Trench 1 though it suggested a deliberate deposit partially infilling the water feature (or far less likely intended to renew the lining of its base).
- It produced rather more finds including pre modern window glass, a little olive green wine bottle glass, fragments of coal and a small group of pottery. As well as further REFW vessels and two sherds of Transfer Printed Whiteware (TPW; 1780 – 1900+) there were two sherds of London Area Post Medieval Redware (PMR; 1580 – 1900+), a sherd of Black Basalt Ware (BBAS; 1770 – 1900), another chip of TGW, half of an English Stoneware (ENGs; 1700 – 1900+) inkwell and sherds of a Chinese Blue and White Porcelain (CHPO BW; 1590 – 1900) tea bowl painted internally with a lotus flower below a rim line. There was also a partial clay pipe bowl, probably of (the later part of the range) 1700 – 70 or of 1780 – 1820 and a pipe stem decorated with moulded foliage including a shamrock. A tentative date in the early to mid nineteenth century might be suggested for the context from this material, but cannot be certain.

¹ Whether these were just regarded as part of the topsoil in 1997, or indeed were not recognised at all or even were absent, it is impossible to say from the very limited report available on this work.

- Above [3] was [2], a loose brown (7.5 YR 5/4) moderately clayey silt with moderately frequent rounded and angular stones (to 0.03 m) which was c. 0.04 m thick in Trench 1 and c. 0.07 m thick in Trench 2, but thinned markedly towards the banks. It had probably built up (rather than having been dumped) after the full abandonment of the water feature, though the feature probably still represented a shallow linear hollow. The deposit included brick, tile, roofing slate and modern window glass fragments, nails and sherds of terracotta flower pots and modern vessel glass together with a sherd from a probably eighteenth century CHPO BW bowl, and a probably eighteenth century or earlier Red Border Ware (RBORG; 1550 – 1900) bowl, both clearly residual.
- Large sherds of an ENGS storage jar and a Sunderland Type Coarseware (SUND; 1800 – 1900+) bowl from the top of [2] help to suggest that the feature ceased to be a recognisable element of the landscape sometime broadly in the later nineteenth to earlier twentieth centuries.
- Beyond the confines of the water feature it was apparent from Trench 1 and Test Pits 1 and 2 that at least on the east the path along the side of the water feature probably connected with at least one more. Test Pit 1 showed that the path along the water feature represented by the western part of [5] in Trench 1 was, north of the trench, probably c. 2.60 m wide as there was no similar surface found at the eastern end of the test pit. However, the path along the feature somewhat south of Trench 1 was probably narrower as [5] was not found at all in Test Pit 2. The continuation of [5] to the eastern end of Trench 1 indicated that a second path or at least hard standing of some sort joined that running along the edge of the water feature, presumably at right angles.
- This east west ?path was over 1.17 m long and under c. 5 m wide, though its actual width was not established. A sample excavation of it at the east end of Trench 1 showed that the material forming it was indistinguishable from [5] and that this dense pebble dump was at least 0.23 m thick, excavation ceasing at what may have been its boundary with the top of [7]. The implication appeared to be that these paths, like the banks themselves, had been created by dumping and probably ramming immediately redeposited Taplow gravel into substantial cuts into the natural [9] that had already been partially filled with [7].
- All preceding deposits and features were overlain by a topsoil, [1], comprising a, largely stone free, loose brown (7.5 YR 5/4) moderately clayey silt which included a range of nineteenth to twenty/twenty first century (and occasionally probably earlier) finds including pieces of terracotta drain pipe, tile, brick, roofing slate, coal, vessel and window glass and iron objects including a possible cleaver blade.
- It was generally 0.20 m thick and gave a currently turfed surface at +42.17 m OD along the eastern side of Trench 1 and +41.83 m OD along its west side. The line of the water feature, where not excavated, was very clearly represented by a slight linear dip and, in the very dry weather at the time of excavation, an exceptionally clear positive grass mark flanked by broad linear scorch marks above the banks/paths flanking it. The turfed surface in the vicinity of Trench 2 was at + 42.25 m OD on the north and + 42.10 m OD on the south, again with very clear positive grass marks and scorch marks.

7 DISCUSSION

- It appears clear that the feature under excavation was a 5.00 m wide,² c. 33 m long ornamental ‘canal’ with an apsidal north end and which probably formed the main axis for a formal garden divided up at least in part by rammed pebble paths. Its shallow depth would appear to preclude anything except this (such as a fish pond or water supply feature).
- It may well not have required any significant water supply beyond being rain filled and there was no evidence for any connection with other water features in the gardens of the house, though without complete excavation the possibility of e.g. a piped supply entering it at some point cannot be entirely ruled out.
- The construction method of just creating rammed pebble/gravel banks in construction trenches to flank a cut revealing the relatively impermeable natural brickearth, perhaps with the use of mortar to stabilise the banks’ foundations, tends to suggest a labour intensive process. However, that there was a major quarry exploiting the natural gravels, which here underlie the brickearth, only a few hundred meters away to the east by 1865 (Fig. 4) emphasises that most of the materials used would have been readily available so that there would have been only a limited cost involved in creating the ‘canal’.

² The 1997 report gives c. 4.45 m wide. It seems relatively unlikely that the ‘canal’ narrowed as it ran south and this earlier work did not represent a full section across it, but the cause of the discrepancy is not obvious.

- The creation of garden paths by the same method as the banks must though have involved, especially if it was employed beyond the immediate environs of the ‘canal’, unnecessary effort and might suggest that labour costs at least were not a consideration in any overall garden creation scheme.
- There was no direct evidence of the date at which the ‘canal’ or paths were constructed. If the sand deposits associated with the lower levels of at least one bank were the remnants of leached mortar this might suggest a fairly inferior mortar was used and could conceivably be argued to provide a hint that construction perhaps took place before the nineteenth century, but such an argument would be speculative at best.
- The absence of the ‘canal’ from the 1801 Edmonton enclosure map probably cannot be taken as significant given the relatively small scale of the construction and the absence of any features in the area on the earliest OS maps of c. 1865 may be more significant, but still cannot be taken as proof that the ‘canal’ originated later than this, which might anyway seem relatively unlikely.
- The converse, that the absence of the ‘canal’ from 1865 mapping indicates its disuse by that date, is more attractive, and might be consistent with the limited dating evidence for its infilling recovered by the current work.
- Thus, the processes by which the water feature went out of use are not entirely clear, but it may well have gradually silted up and then been largely infilled, but leaving it as a shallow linear hollow that continued to fill with silt and garden rubbish, possibly over a protracted period. The dates at which these infilling processes occurred are again not closely assessable, but that the feature was effectively out of use and may have been largely deliberately infilled at some point in the early to mid nineteenth century does on balance seem probable if not fully established.
- The implications of what was seen of the paths is that they were contemporary with the water feature and so represented a single planned garden layout. How far that was fully orthogonal and symmetrical there was not enough evidence to determine from this limited excavation, but the indications are that it was not simply a rectilinear grid divided by paths of equal widths.
- The excavation does on the balance of probabilities support the assumption that the ‘canal’ and so associated paths were parts of the broader water garden development believed to have been created around Broomfield House in the early eighteenth century, but this should not be taken as established beyond doubt.

8 CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

- There are no immediate threats to the archaeological resource represented by the features excavated.
- In research terms the excavated features should be regarded as integral parts of a potentially recoverable wider historic garden layout which formed the setting for Broomfield House at some point during its existence.
- Indeed, though investigation of them was beyond the scope of the present work, the dry conditions during and immediately after it made several further positive grass marks probably representing further features of the garden very obvious. These included at least five symmetrically arranged probably circular features – perhaps specimen tree planting sites – to the east of the ‘canal’ between Trenches 1 and 2 (Pl. 5) some of which are also visible on aerial photographic coverage (Pl. 1) and another square feature to the west of the ‘canal’ (Pl. 6).
- Whilst, to whatever date the garden layout belonged, further work which clarified that layout would add to the understanding of this site and contribute generally to garden history, if the layout was connected to other elements of the landscape around the house, which appear to represent a Dutch inspired Baroque water garden, the further investigation of the area in which the excavated feature lay would have the potential to contribute more significantly to the understanding of fashions in British garden design as relatively few gardens of this type survive or have been explored archaeologically.
- Further work on the ‘canal’ would not appear to be required to understand its form or construction and would only advance any of these agendas if it led to the recovery of better dating evidence for the garden layout. Any further work should though seek to clarify aspects such as the plan of the wider garden it formed part of and this might be achieved, as well as by the study of any grass marks, by a more comprehensive resistivity survey than that previously undertaken followed by selective small excavations.
- Any such further work should be integrated into any archaeological component of the currently developing proposals to bring Broomfield House/its site back into public use.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- The author and the EAS are grateful to John Cole of the LBE for commissioning the work and to their contractors, A. H. Nichols, for their logistical input during it.
- The support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the project of which it formed a part is gratefully acknowledged.
- MJD is grateful to Judith Stones, John Pinchbeck and Neil Pinchbeck of the EAS who acted as site supervisors and recorders; to Jan Metcalf of the EAS who organised a concurrent public outreach event; to Ian K. Jones for assistance in identifying some of the pottery finds; and to Fiona Holloran for monitoring parch marks on the site after the excavation.

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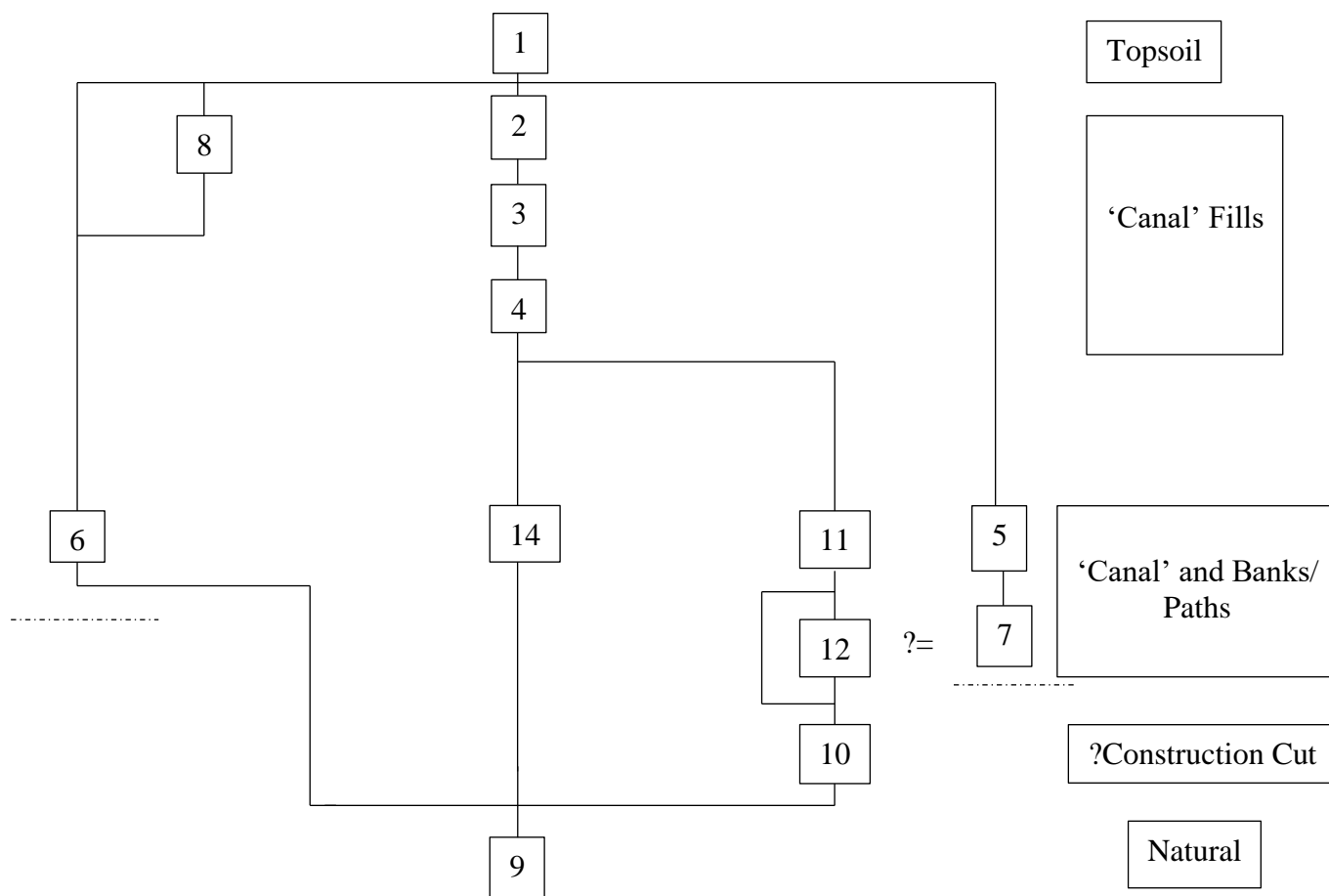
APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE NOTE

- A Deed of Transfer of title of all archaeological material recovered and all records created by the work was enacted between the client and the EAS prior to the commencement of the work, the archive for BMF25 will be deposited at the London Borough of Enfield Museum Service/EAS archive within the next three months and includes:
- inked copies of all plans and sections, context sheets, plan, section, levels and photographic registers, this report, full finds report, a digital image archive and the retained finds.

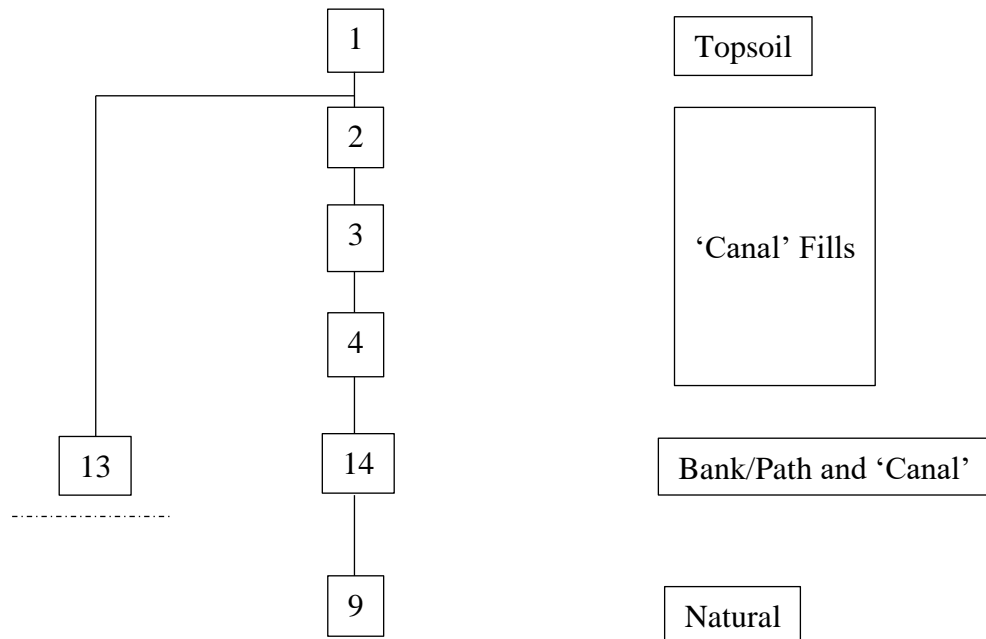
APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX AND MATRICES

Context	Type	Details
1	Layer	Topsoil
2	Fill	To 'Canal'
3	Fill	To 'Canal'
4	Fill	To 'Canal'
5	Feature	Bank/Path
6	Feature	Bank/Path
7	Feature	Bank (Lower Levels)
8	Feature	Plantin Pit
9	Layer	Natural
10	Cut	?Construction Cut
11	Fill	Of 10
12	Fill	Of 10
13	Feature	Bank/Path
14	Cut	Of 'Canal'

Trench 1



Trench 2



APPENDIX 3: FINDS

- All finds were collected from all contexts, but cbm, building/roofing materials, drain pipe elements and clearly later twentieth/twenty first century items were summarised on context sheets and not retained.
- Contexts appear at the end of or in entries thus: [7] with any Small Find number. * Indicates objects illustrated on Fig. 8.

1 Items of Personal Adornment or Dress

- 1.1 Au signet ring. Flat octagonal bezel (1.10 x 1.10 cm) engraved with gothic letter 'S' and tendril pattern to one side separated by engraved line. Hoop narrowing markedly away from bezel. Back of bezel engraved 'E M Loves You' in gothic script. Fully hallmarked London 1985, 9 carot gold and makers mark 'LG&S'. [1] SF1

2 Objects Associated with Written Communication

- *2.1 Ae fob seal (Ht. 3.45 cm). Cast, hollow rectangular (1.70 x 2.00 cm) mount for a lost, probably carved stone, personal seal matrix, surmounted by two S-shaped mirrored volutes, joining at the top to support a transverse suspension loop. The mount has a basal zone of poorly preserved cast foliate decoration below a step, then tapers towards a raised central cushion with triple raised lines and central knob between the bases of the volutes which retain casting seams. Probably nineteenth century. [1] SF2

3 Objects Associated with Transport or Agriculture

- *3.1 Ae crotal bell (Ht. 3.68; Di. 2.91 cm). Complete sub spherical bell with prominent ridge at join between the hemispheres, circular expansions to the slot in the lower and the upper with two slightly counter sunk circular holes and an integrally cast square suspension loop with circular hole. Internal pea remains. Perhaps from horse harness. ??Nineteenth century. [U/S]

4 Internal Furnishing Items

- 4.1 Ae furniture stud (Di. 0.90 cm). Small domed stud retaining complete, pointed, bent shank (L. 0.93 cm). [U/S]

5 Knives and Tools

- There was a cleaver blade from [1] and a small corroded and concreated fragment of a possible knife blade from [2].

6 Metalworking Residues and Fuels

6.1 Pb strip, (W. 2.23 cm). Short length of rolled up strip. [4]

- Small fragments of coal came from [1], [2], [3] and [4].
- A piece of furnace clinker came from [4] and a small lump of indeterminate slag from [3].

7 Building and Roofing Materials

- Brick, tile and roofing slate fragments were fairly common in [1] and [2]. There was a single slate fragment from [3].
- Iron nails came from [1] and [2] with a single example from [4].
- There were three pieces of machine made white glazed wall tile from [2].

8 Vessel Glass

- Vessel glass was common in [1] and [2], but all was modern, including a clear glass wine glass base from [1], the base of a ?nineteenth century octagonal hand blown clear glass ?jar with a pushed in basal pointel mark from [1]/[2] and the finial from a clear glass handle from [2]. [2] also produced a green glass wine bottle base perhaps of the later nineteenth to early twentieth century. A badly eroded sherd and a chip of olive green wine bottle glass, and a sherd of green ?wine bottle glass, came from [3].

9 Window Glass

- Modern window glass came from [1] and [2]. Four sherds of slightly greenish window glass with small bubbles came from [3], along with a pane edge of clear glass with a decayed surface.

10 Clay Tobacco Pipes

10.1 Partial bowl. Flat based spur marked C and T. Heavily burnt. Probably a fairly late example of Atkinson and Oswald type 25 (1700 – 70) or of (op cit) type 27 (1780 – 1820). [3]

- Stem fragments came from [2] (1) and [3] (4) as well as [1] (8). Two possibly joining from [3] included one with moulded foliate decoration including a shamrock.

11 Pottery (by fabric)

London Area Post Medieval Red Earthenware (PMR; c. 1580 – 1900)

Body (3 + chip). Brown glaze inc. thumb mark from handle attachment. [1]

Body (1). Brown glaze int. and ext. [1]/[2]

Handle (2+ chip), large bowl(s) [2]

Base (1). Brown glaze int. [3]

Body (1) dark brown glaze int. and ext. [3]

Surrey/Hampshire Red Border Ware (RBORG; 1550 – 1900)

Rim (1), dish. Rim incomplete. Green glaze. Perhaps eighteenth century. [2]

Tin Glazed Earthenware (TGW (Delft); Mainly post c. 1613)

Base (1). Buff f., off white glaze. Eighteenth century or later. [1]/[2]

Chip (1). Int. duck egg blue glaze. Probably eighteenth century. [2]

Chip (1) Buff f. White glaze with slight blue cast int. and ext. [3]

Chip (1). Buff f. White glaze ext. with fragment of blue decoration. [4]

Chinese Blue and White Porcelain (CHPO BW; 1590 – 1900) (IDs MJD and Ian K. Jones)

Body near rim (1), dish. Blue on blue tinged white glaze int. and ext. Probably eighteenth century rim border pattern. [2]

Rim (2, join + chip), tea bowl. Blue cast to white glaze int. and ext. Int. blue marginal rim line above lotus flower. [3]

English Porcelain (ENPO; 1745 – 1900+)

Base (1). [2]

Body (1). Dark blue decoration int. and ext. [1]/[2]

Rim (1). Very thin. Red and blue decoration ext. ?Twentieth century. [1]/[2]

Black Basalt Ware (BBAS; 1770 – 1900)

Rim (1), uncertain form. [3]

Refined Whiteware (REFW; 1740 – 1900+) all white glazed unless noted

Rim (1), tea cup. [1]

Rim (1), wall sided bowl, patchy buff/yellowish glaze [1]

Body (6). [1]

Body (7+ chips) [1]/[2]

Rim (2 join+ chip), plate [2]

Handle (1), burnt [2]

Body (1) [2]

Rim (1), bowl [3]

Body (3) [3]

Handle (2, ?match), ?jug. Burnt. [3]

Body (1), bowl [3]/[4]

Rim (1), bowl [4]

Transfer Printed Whiteware (TPW; 1780 – 1900+) blue and white decoration unless noted

Rim (1), plate. Green transfer print. [1]

Body (2+chips) [1]

Rim (1), bowl. Flat out turned rim with stylised ovolo and ext. vegetative print. ?Late nineteenth/early twentieth century. [2]

Base (1) and body (6 + chips), plate. [2]

Body (4) [2]

Rim (1), cup or bowl. Dog tooth rim line in dark blue. [3]

Body (1) [3]

English Stoneware (ENGs; 1700 – 1900+)

Half of vessel, inkwell. Int. and ext. grey glaze, ext. with brown base [3]

Rim (1), jug. Mottled cream and dark brown glaze. [2]

Base (1), jar. Large section of large jar. [1]/[2]

Sunderland Type Coarseware (SUND; 1800 – 1900+)

Body and handle (1). [1]/[2]

Terracotta

Rim (1), large planter [1]

Rim (1) and body (1), flower pot [1]

Rim (1), flower pot [2]

Unidentified

Body (1). White glazed red earthenware. [2]

Chip (1). Uncertain salt glazed ?stoneware. [1]/[2]

Body (1), ?jar/bowl. Int. and ext. poorly black glazed earthenware. [1]

APPENDIX 4: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS Summary for enfielda1-533878

OASIS ID (UID)	enfielda1-533878
Project Name	Research Excavation at Broomfield Park
Sitename	Broomfield Park
Sitecode	BMF25
Project Identifier(s)	Broomfield Park
Activity type	Research Excavation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Academic research
Organisation Responsible for work	Enfield Archaeological Society
Project Dates	26-Apr-2025 - 05-May-2025
Location	Broomfield Park NGR : TQ 30510 92670 LL : 51.61773259868783, -0.116310991829314 12 Fig : 530510,192670
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Enfield Local Authority District : Enfield Parish : Enfield, unparished area ^{Fig 2}
Project Methodology	Hand excavation of two trenches and two test pits and recording of parch/grass marks
Project Results	•Excavation of two trenches and two test pits in the former garden of the Grade II* listed Broomfield House showed that a garden 'canal', created by excavating down to natural brickearth and edging it with dumped natural gravel banks, on one side at least resting on possible leached mortar foundations in linear construction trenches, probably gradually sited up before being partly infilled, perhaps in the early to mid nineteenth century, and subsequently continued to fully silt up. The date of construction of the 'canal' and associated gravel paths that probably defined a wider formal garden layout also revealed by grass marks was not established, but they might have been part of an early eighteenth century Dutch inspired Baroque water garden, other elements of which are extant.
Keywords	Water Feature - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	District, borough or city council London Borough of Enfield
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Martin Dearne
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Report generated on: 14 May 2025, 14:07

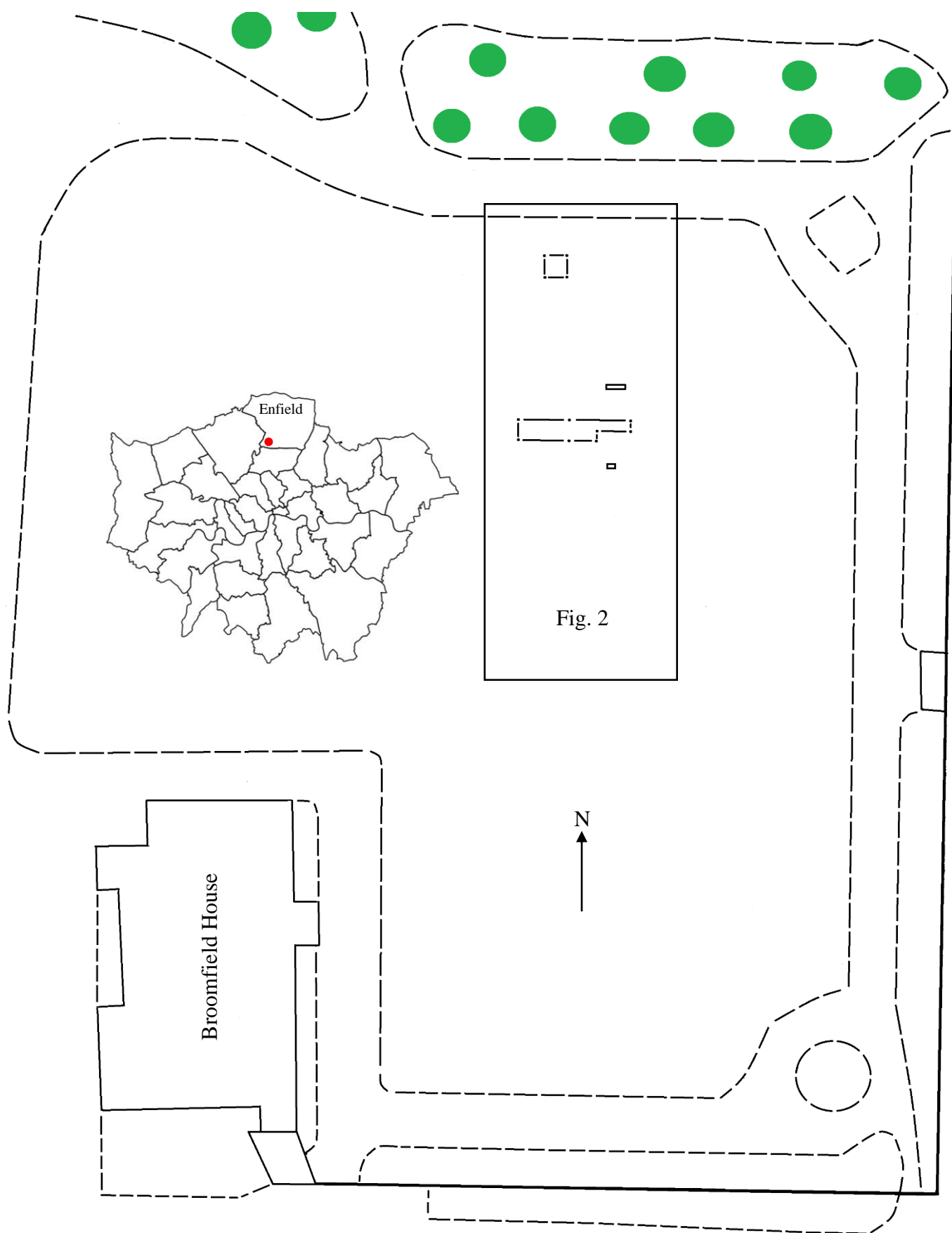


Fig. 1: Site Location (1:500)

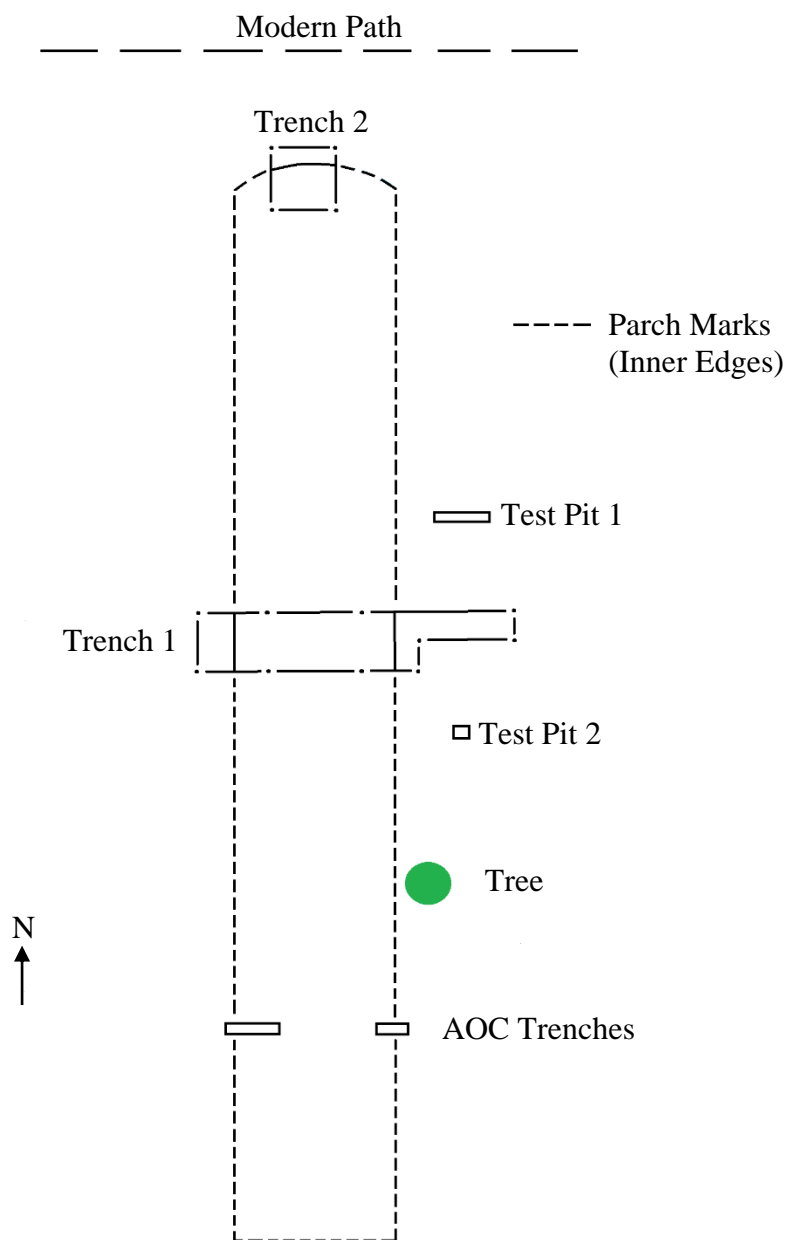


Fig. 2: Excavations in Relations to Parch Marks (1:250)

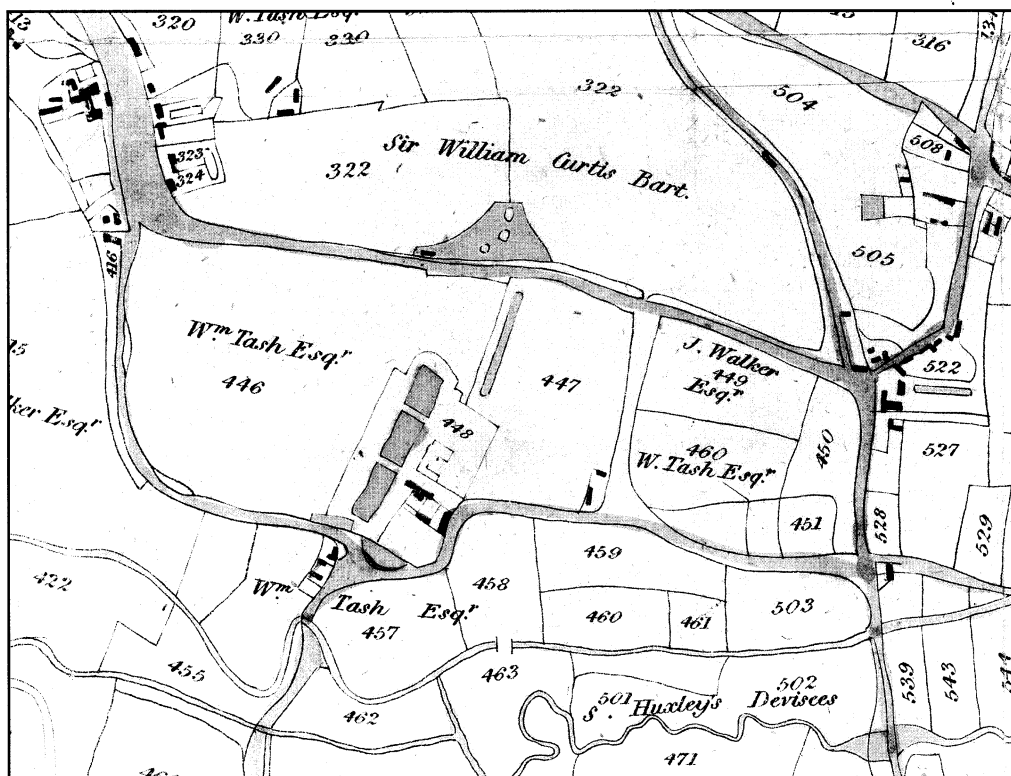


Fig. 3: Extract from the 1801 Edmonton Tithe Map

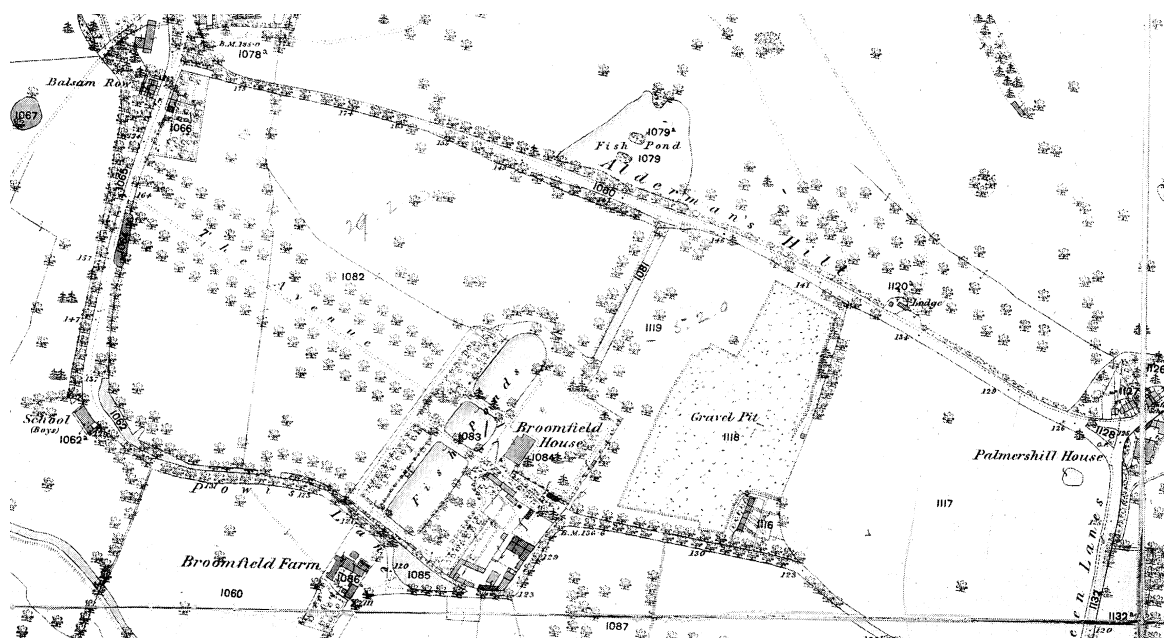


Fig. 4: Extract from the 1865 25 Inch to a Mile OS Map

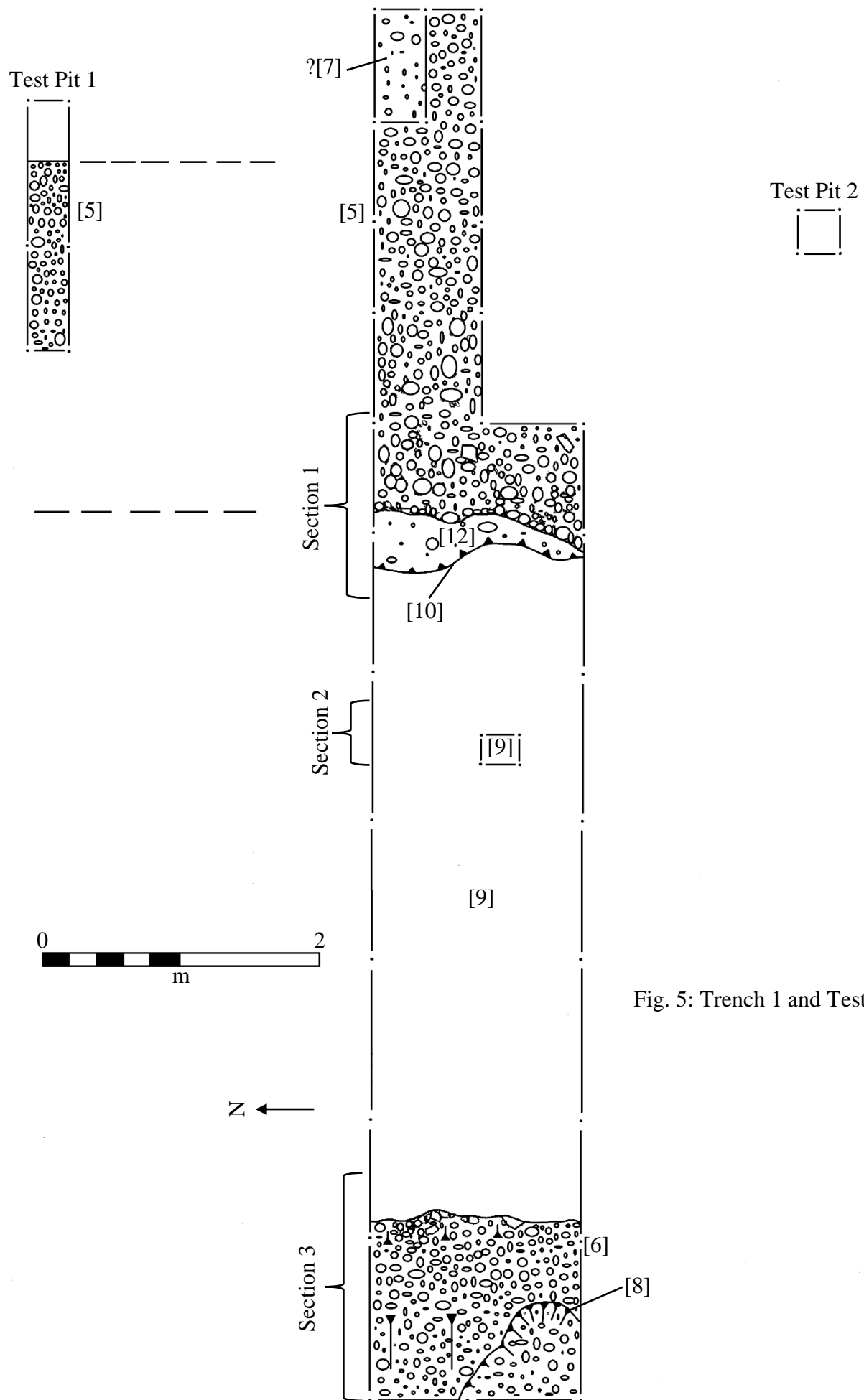


Fig. 5: Trench 1 and Test Pits

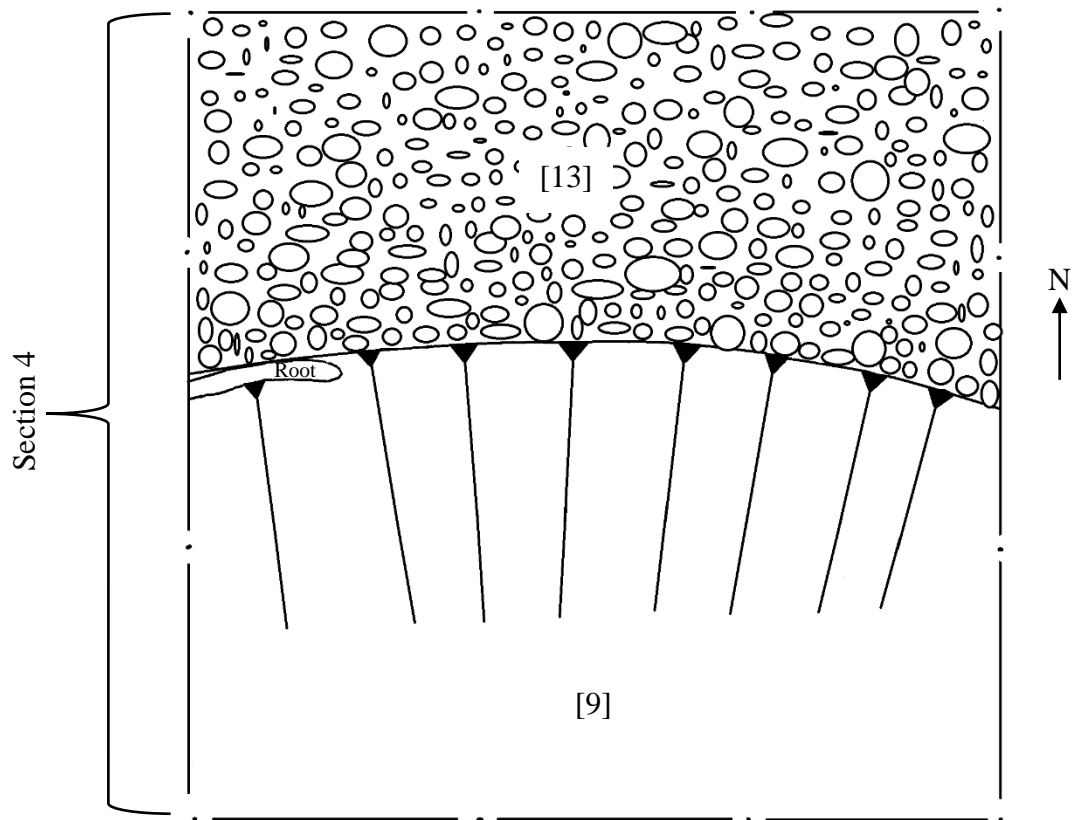


Fig. 6: Trench 2 (1:20)

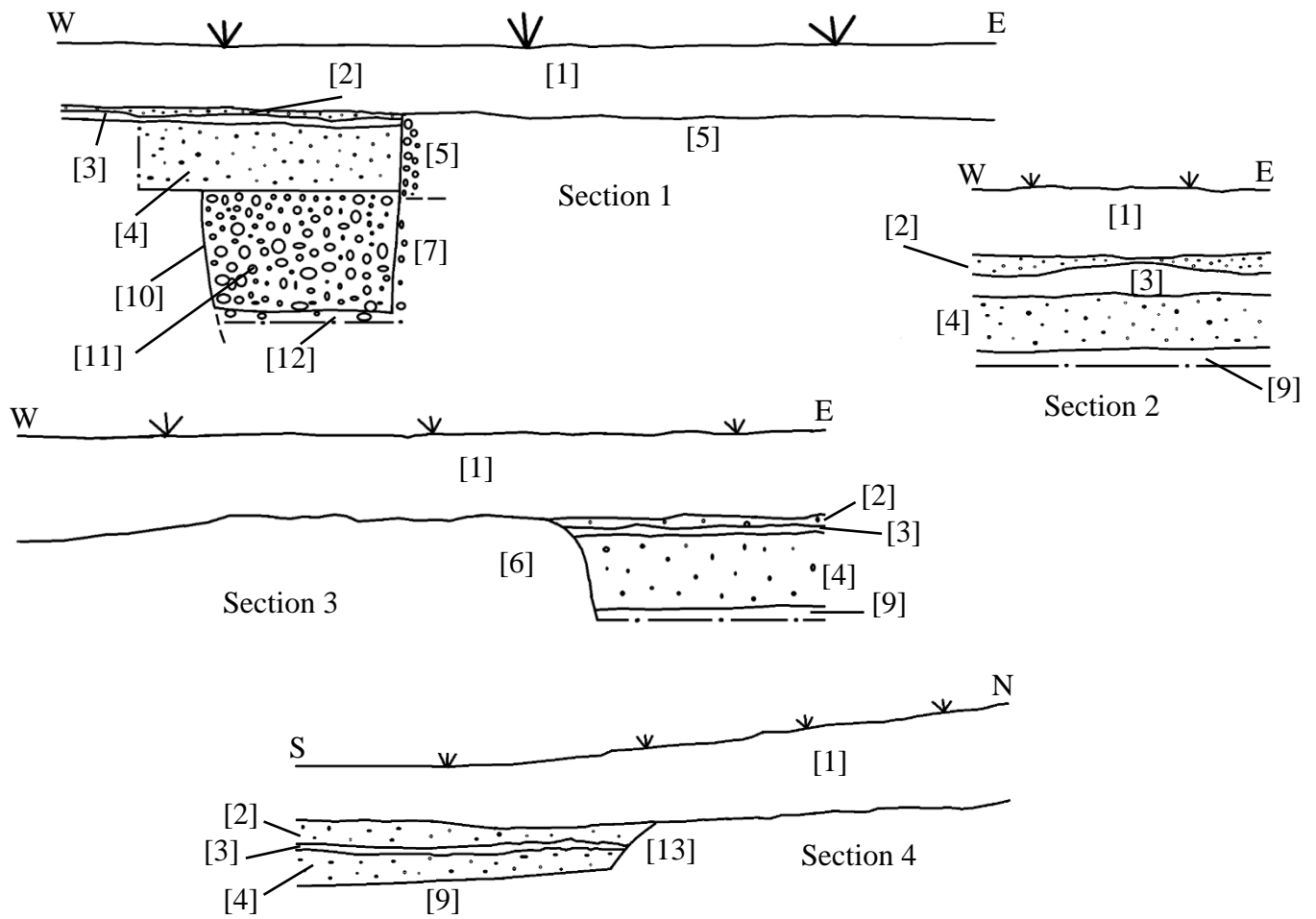
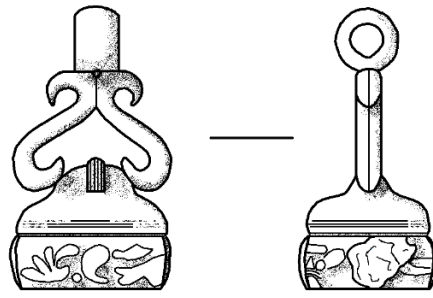
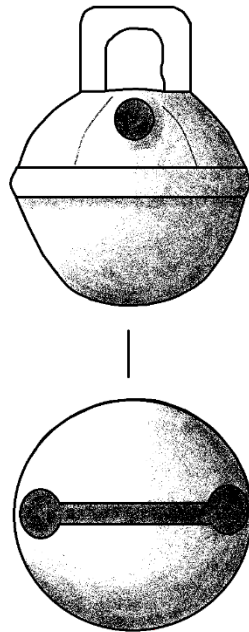


Fig. 7: Sections (1:20)



2.1



3.1

Fig. 8: Ae Objects (1:1)



Pl. 1: c. 1945 Aerial Photograph of Broomfield Park (raf_cpe_uk_2155_rvp1_6092)



Pl 2: Bank [5] with [7] Exposed Below it in Cut [10] Looking East (photo MJD)



Pl. 3: Bank [6] and Planting Pit [8] Looking West (photo MJD)



Pl. 4: Bank [13] and the Surface of Cut [14] Looking West (photo John Pinchbeck)



Pl. 5: Grass Marks of the 'Canal' and Other Features (Arrowed) Looking South Approximately a Week After the Excavation (photo Fiona Holloran)



Pl. 6: Grass Mark to the West of the 'Canal' Looking South East (photo John Pinchbeck)