

# PAS

## ANL 14

337-339 Acton Lane, Acton, Ealing  
W3 8NU



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## Archaeology Watching Brief Report

P/2007/0389

ANL 14

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 337-339 Acton Lane, Acton,  
Ealing W3 8NU**

**(NGR 520397, 179786)**

**ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD REPORT**

**Re: Planning Application P/2007/0389  
Discharge of Condition 6**

**PAS Ref: 14/43  
M o L site code: ANL14  
GLHER Ref: 11532**

***On the request of*  
Catherine Read MCIAT  
Acting on behalf of their client Messrs B & S Shepherd**

**July 2015**

***PRO Archaeology Services***

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*Issue and Revision Record*

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Rev01	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	Dr. Christer Carlsson ACIfA	P. Riccoboni MCIfA	Dr Sandy Kidd	Draft issue to Sandy Kidd (GLAAS) or comment/approval
Rev02	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2015	Dr. Christer Carlsson ACIfA	P. Riccoboni MCIfA	Dr Sandy Kidd	Approved by Dr Sandy Kidd

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## Non-technical summary

*PRO Archaeology were commissioned by clients to undertake archaeological observation and recording (or 'watching brief') at 337-339 Acton Lane, Ealing, London, W3 8NU (hereafter 'the Site') in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PRO Archaeology and approved prior to the commencement of ground works by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).*

*PRO Archaeology monitored the excavation of ground beam trenches between the concrete piles on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The ground reduction did not impact beyond modern made ground deposits. After one day on site it was decided to cease the investigation as there was no threat to the truncation of any archaeological features or finds.*

*No archaeological features or finds have been discovered on the site.*

## 1. Introduction

This report details a watching brief which was conducted at 337-339 Acton Lane, Ealing, London, W3 8NU (NGR 520397, 179786) during the re-development of the site (Planning Ref: P/2007/0389).

## 2. Site location

The Site is located in Acton, West London, on the eastern side of the B490 (Acton Lane), approximately 300m south of the junction with the A4020 (High Street) in an area of residential development on the north eastern side of Acton Lane (Figure 1). The premises were occupied by Chiswick Car Craft, a garage providing servicing and MOT tests. The front of the building was two storeys in height which covered approximately half of the site and the remainder of the building extending to the north east comprised a single storey warehouse with greater headroom.

The Site lies on flat ground at an approximate height of 10m AOD.

### 2.1 Geology

According to the maps of the British Geological Survey 270 'South London', Solid and Drift Edition 1998, and the BGS online database, the Site is underlain by the Langley Silt Member and a bedrock of London Clay Formation.

### 3. Planning background

The proposed new development will comprise two two-storey houses with a habitable loft area built in the style of the adjacent terraced houses.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the London Plan (Mayor of London 2013) have a consistent approach to those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest (heritage assets).

The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term.

In accordance with the policies above the Local Planning Authority (LPA) has placed the following condition on the planning consent: P/2007/0389.

*6. No development shall take place within the area indicated as of archaeological interest until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To safeguard the special archaeological interest of the site, in accordance with policies 7.8 and 7.9 of the London Plan policy 4.9 of adopted Ealing Unitary Development Plan 'Plan for the Environment' (2004).*

### 4. Archaeological background

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie on or close to the study area. A 500m search of the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER Ref: 11532) returned 21 sites.

#### *Palaeolithic*

Within a 1km study area there are numerous prehistoric find spots with some important discoveries in close proximity to the development site.

An assemblage of Palaeolithic mammalian fossils were uncovered during excavations at Brown's Orchard (now South Parade and The Orchard) in 1872 (MLO103063). The fossils were uncovered within sand with pebbles, underneath a gravel terrace. Species recorded include narrow-nosed rhinoceros, horse, hippopotamus, aurochs, bison, fallow deer, red deer, reindeer, brown bear and woolly mammoth. The assemblage is comparable with similar deposits found at Trafalgar Square.

At Salisbury Street, Acton on the site of Berrymead Priory a lower Palaeolithic cordate handaxe with a broken tip was recovered (MLO11282).

Other relevant early prehistoric finds include a large flint subcordate handaxe, found in 1873, (GLHER Ref: 050045/00/00) and a large triangular implement (GLHER Ref: 50054/00/00).

Palaeolithic flint implements (MLO's 519, 464, 12588 & 1586) have been discovered c. 200m – 500m to the north of the site. On Chaucer Rd c. 1km to the north of the development area (GLHER Number: 050105/00/00) flint flakes have been found in situ in 1869 and at Buxton Gardens (Formerly Buxton Rd) two handaxes (GLHER 050090/00/00) were recovered.

Flint implements have also been found c. 400m to the west (MLO 11482) and c. 500m to the south (MLO 13735).

#### *Mesolithic - Neolithic*

Worked flints & cores were found during a watching brief of a new house by the West London Archaeological Field Group just 50m to the north of the Site (GLHER: 050415/00/00).

#### *Romano-British*

Two pits of Romano-British date (MLO 23983) were discovered during archaeological investigations (ELO 2688) on the High Street c. 300m to the north-west (GLHER Ref: 051133/00/00). A small assemblage of Romano-British pottery sherds (MLO 4536) were discovered c. 500m to the north of the site.

At 49-51 Avenue Gardens (GLHER Ref: 050942/00/00) traces of intercutting Romano-British ditches were found during trial trenching by the West London Archaeological Field Group in 1981. Notable finds were a finger ring and an almost complete Samian Bowl c.100-130AD.

#### *Early medieval*

The place-name 'Acton' is thought to signify 'Oak Town' and the settlement may have Saxon origins. The village, however, is not recorded until 1181 AD. Evidence of early medieval settlement comprising a residual rim sherd (c.1220 AD; MLO 76024) was recovered during an excavation along the High Street (ELO 531) c. 500m to the north-west. The medieval settlement of Acton (MLO 72237) is situated c. 500m to the northwest, and appears to have lain along Horn Lane and houses are recorded in the village from the 13th century onwards. From the 14th century onwards, two taverns are recorded in the village, namely the Tabbard and the Cock.

#### *Later Medieval*

Berrymead Priory is a medieval monastery located on the site of the modern car park at Salisbury Street, Acton, just 300m to the north of the development area. The site of the priory was reputed to be in the possession of the Knights Templar in 1100AD when it came under the control of St Paul's Cathedral who built a Benedictine Priory on the site.

The true extent of the Priory is uncertain as there is no evidence to support the claims of 40 monks being housed at the site. A number of other facts regarding the Priory are disputed, including its status as a monastery or nunnery, and the presence of an existing building given to St Paul's for the purpose of creating the Priory. The lack of data suggests that comments on the priory holding 40 monks are incorrect as a priory of that size would normally generate more information than is available for Berrymead Priory. However, if the name was only associated with the site after the dissolution, the information may been located under another-unknown name.

The priory was surrendered to the Crown in 1544 as part of the dissolution of the monasteries. After it was surrendered to the crown the priory was demolished.



### Post-medieval

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Acton was popular with the gentry and minor courtiers as a summer residence. Acton Wells was reputed to possess health giving mineral water. Philip Skippon, a Parliamentary general, and Richard Baxter, a religious dissident, lived in Acton in the seventeenth century. Berrymead Priory, to the south of the Uxbridge Road, was the home of the Marquis of Halifax, a Tory statesman, shown on the OS map of 1894 as the Priory Constitutional Club.

Within the RSA Geotechnics investigation report (RSA 2014) is a map regression based on a review of historic OS maps acquired from a Envirocheck survey. The maps show the Site was open land in 1850 up until 1935 when a single structure had been built on the Site. Between 1940 and 1955 the original structure had been demolished and a larger structure was covered almost the entirety of the Site. By 1982 the building was labelled as a 'Works' but the structure remained unchanged until the present day.

### Archaeological Potential

A geotechnical survey was conducted across the development area during May 2014 by RSA Geotechnics Ltd (RSA 2014). The ground investigation work comprised six window sample boreholes (WS1 to WS6) and four dynamic probes (DP3 to DP6) adjacent to the window sample hole of the same number. The window sample boreholes were located around the Site to provide general coverage for geotechnical and environmental purposes and to target areas of potential contamination.

The boreholes logs are useful as an aid to gauge the archaeological potential. Made ground was encountered at each of the window sample positions varying in depth from 0.9 m (WS5) to a maximum of 1.6 m (WS2 and WS4). The upper 150 to 300mm layer of each window sample encountered concrete at each of the positions and the concrete was found to be weak and not requiring the use of rotary coring cutters to break through. The deep made ground deposits across the development area contained ash, clinker and charcoal and other modern contaminates. As there is no record of any surviving original topsoil or subsoil deposits within the logs, the indication would therefore be that the Site had been affected by the construction of the existing building (garage) and it was considered likely that if archaeological deposits do exist on the development area they may have been truncated. Furthermore, an archaeological watching brief conducted by Archaeological Solutions (AS 2013) c. 150m to the north of the site on Winchester Street, located closer to the known location of Berrymead Priory and Saxon and medieval village centre, did not yield any archaeological finds or features and beam trenches also recorded deep post-medieval modern made ground deposits across the site.

## 5. Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological investigation were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in general accordance with the research frameworks set out in a *framework for London Archaeology* (Nixon *et al* 2003).

Specific aims were:

- To clarify the nature of deposits and assess the potential for prehistoric remains from the Palaeolithic to the end of the prehistoric period;
- To establish whether any evidence of the Saxon or later medieval settlement;

- Establish whether any medieval remains exist associated with the medieval Berrymead Priory; and
- To establish if there are any later post-medieval remains survive.

## 6. Methodology

PRO Archaeology monitored the excavation of beam trenches after the insertion of concrete piles. Excavation was undertaken using a 0.60m wide bucket in a single direction. Machine excavation ceased to allow the remains to be investigated further (where appropriate).

### 6.1 Recording

All recording points were accurately tied into the National Grid and located on to the 1:1250 map of the area.

Plans indicating the location of all wall footing trenches were drawn at an appropriate scale. An overall plan was maintained at a scale of 1:100.

Sections were drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.

All encountered contexts were recorded individually on context record sheets. A further more general record of the work comprising a description and discussion of the stratigraphy was maintained as appropriate.

The site records will be professionally archived at the Museum of London.

## 7. Results

The general stratigraphy was simple and consisted of two contexts. The earliest context was 0.40m thick mid-dark brown silty clay garden soil (102). The latest context was 0.30m thick light grey loose gravel with topsoil over a geotextile membrane. The bottom of the footings were at a height of 10.18m AOD at all times.

No archaeological features or finds were discovered.

### 7.1 Reliability of Results

The watching brief was conducted during good weather and the reliability of the results is considered to be good. Dr Christer Carlson ACIfA conducted the fieldwork.

## 8. The Finds

The archaeological investigations retrieved no finds.

## 9. Discussion

The watching brief was successful in proving that the new development has been impacted upon any buried archaeological deposits. A simple sequence was revealed in the beam trenches of two modern deposits with no evidence of residual archaeological cultural material.

A review of the results of the geotechnical survey (RSA 2014) which detailed the stratigraphic sequence across the Site provided an indication that the garage which was constructed in the early 1980's, on a previously empty plot of land, had heavily truncated original ground conditions.

It is unknown whether intact archaeology survives beneath the modern deposits, but the ground investigation report indicated that there is no surviving original topsoil or subsoil deposits. The implication would therefore be that the archaeological horizon had probably been truncated.

## 9. Conclusion

The archaeological watching brief was successful in proving that no archaeological deposits were impacted upon during the construction of new development. There were no archaeological finds within the deposits which were encountered indicating that the development area had not previously been settled. A review of the ground investigation report has indicated that it is unlikely archaeology survives beneath the modern deposits.

A confidence rating is high that the best results were achieved.

## 10. References

Archaeological Solutions Ltd 2013 *Acton Magistrates Court, Winchester Street, Acton, London Archaeological monitoring & recording*. Site Code AMU12 (Project Number: 4976).

British Geological Survey 1998; *Sheet 270 South London* 1:50 000.

Communities and Local Government 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

CIFA, 2014 (revised ed.) *Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) 2014: *Standards for Archaeological Work London Region*, English Heritage.

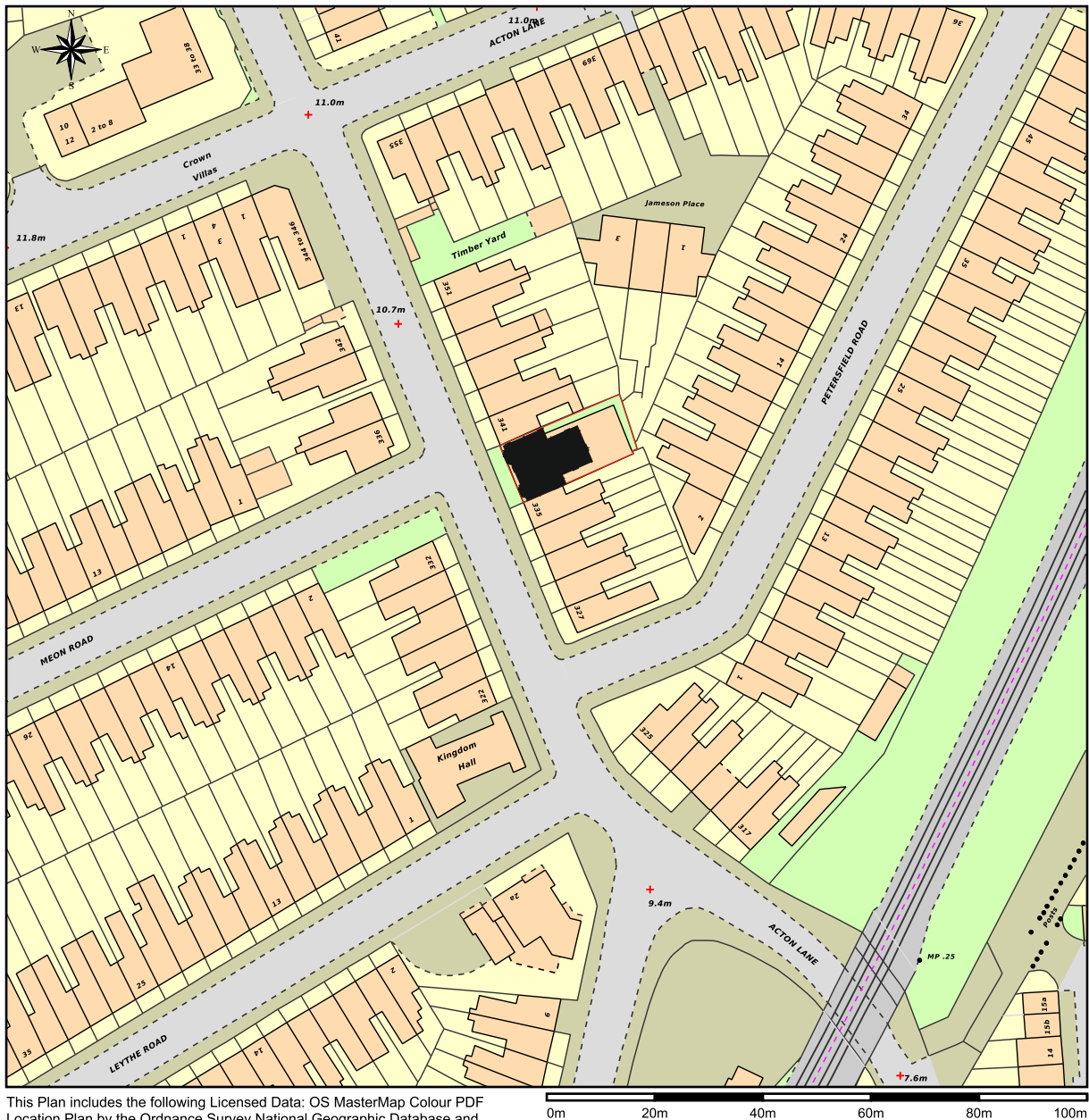
The Mayor of London (2013) The London Plan: Spatial development strategy for Greater London

Molas 1994 *Archaeology Service Archaeological Site Manual* Third Edition 1994.

RSA Geotechnics Ltd 2014 337-339 Acton Lane, Acton, W3 8NU

Nixon, McAdam, Tomber & Swain 2003 *A Research Framework for London Archaeology*.  
Published by Molas 2003

Figure 1: Site Location

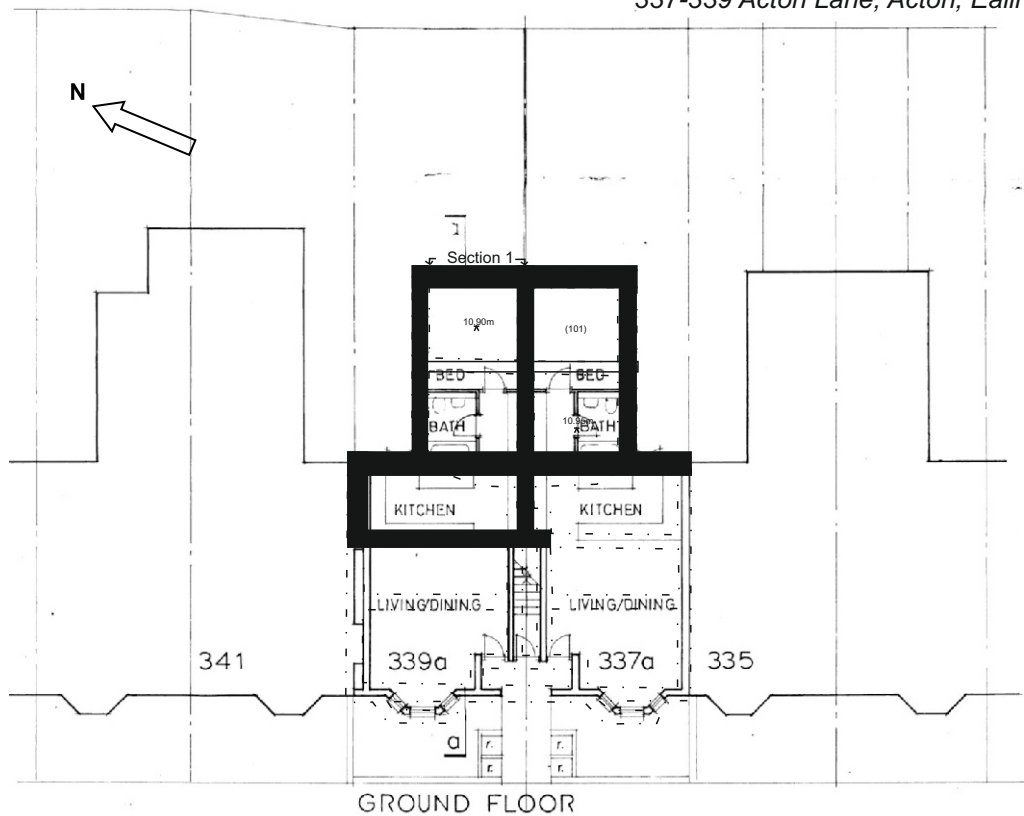


Scale: 1:1250, paper size: A4

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Site Location

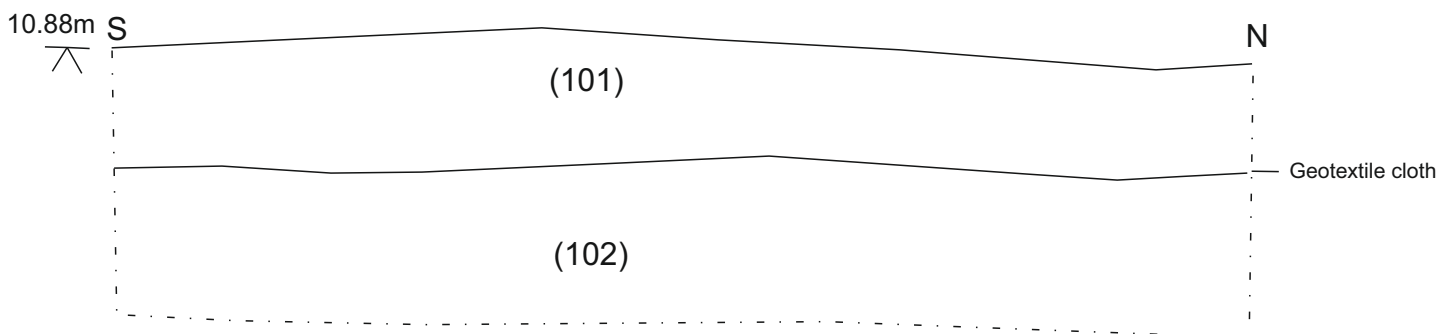
P/2007/0389



ACTON LANE

Monitored footings

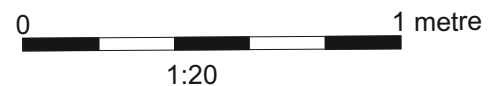
Section1: South west facing section of beam slot trench



**PAS©**

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Section Scale 1:20



Drawn by P.R  
08/07/2015

## Appendix A: Context Inventory

Context No	Type/deposit/cut/masonry	Description	Depth/thickness (metres)	Interpretation
01	Deposit	Light grey loose gravel over a geotextile membrane	0.30m	Topsoil
02	Deposit	Mid-dark brown silty clay	0.40m	Modern



## Appendix B: Selected Site Photos



*Photo 1: South west facing – Section 1*



*Photo 2: Rear trench*





*Photo 3: General shot of beam slots with pile cap showing*

## Appendix C: OASIS Summary record

### OASIS ID: proarcha1-217176

#### Project details

Project name	337-339 Acton Lane, Ealing, London
Short description of the project	PRO Archaeology Services were commissioned by clients to undertake archaeological observation and recording (or 'watching brief') at 337-339 Acton Lane, Ealing, London, W3 8NU (hereafter 'the Site') in accordance with a GLAAS approved Written Scheme of Investigation. PRO Archaeology monitored the excavation of ground beam trenches between the concrete piles on the 30th June 2015. The ground reduction did not impact beyond modern made ground deposits. After one day on site it was decided to cease the investigation as there was no threat to the truncation of any archaeological features or finds. No archaeological features or finds have been discovered on the site.
Project dates	Start: 02-07-2015 End: 02-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ANL14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	P/2007/0389 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON EALING ACTON 337-339 Acton Lane, Acton
Postcode	W3 8NU
Study area	20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 20397 79786 51.5036734999 -0.26512507653 51 30 13 N 000 15 54 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.65m Max: 10.95m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PRO Archaeology Services
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	PRO Archaeology Services
Project director/manager	Paul Riccoboni
Project supervisor	Dr Christer Carlson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr and Mrs B S Shepherd

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Contents	"none"

Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Paper Archive notes	PDF/A

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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