

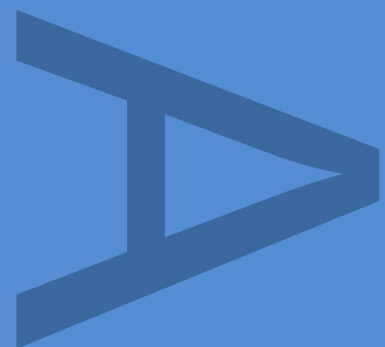
**THE BISHOP GILPIN SCHOOL,  
WIMBLEDON, LONDON BOROUGH  
OF MERTON, SW19 7EP**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON**

**PCA REPORT NO: 11232**

**MAY 2012**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

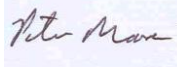
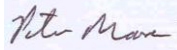
**Site Name**

Bishop Gilpin School, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton

**Type of project**

Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K2766
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Phil Frickers		21.04.12
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at the Bishop Gilpin School, Wimbledon,  
London Borough of Merton, SW19 7EP.**

**Site Code: BGS12**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2476 7134**

**Planning Application Reference: 11/P3013**

**Written and Researched by Phil Frickers**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.**

**May 2012**

**Project Manager: Peter Moore**

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May 2012**

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## **1 Abstract**

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the Bishop Gilpin School, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton, between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012. .
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Wilby & Burnett on behalf of Bishop Gilpin School in response to an archaeological planning condition in advance of extensions to the present school buildings (Planning Application Reference 11/P3013). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Moore, 2012).
- 1.3 The evaluation of Trenches 1 and 2 recorded no archaeological features or deposits. Below modern material associated with the school buildings, natural deposits were observed.

## **2 Introduction**

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at the Bishop Gilpin School, Wimbledon, SW19 7EP. The work was commissioned by Sean Kelleher, Wilby & Burnett, on behalf of Bishop Gilpin School in response to an archaeological planning condition in advance of extensions to the present school buildings (Planning Application Reference 11/P3013).
- 2.2 The proposed works will consist of an extension to the southwestern elevation for a new staff room and the erection of a canopy to classrooms on the eastern elevation.
- 2.3 The site is located in the London Borough of Merton and centred at National Grid Reference TQ 2476 7134.
- 2.4 Information on the Greater London Historic Environment Record (Ref: DLO32909) had shown that the location of the Bishop Gilpin School lay a short distance to the south of the known location of the last Wimbledon Park House, which was demolished in circa 1949. The construction of this house was completed in 1733 and succeeded an attempted construction from circa 1717-1733, which replaced a house remodelled in the 1640's and demolished in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, which replaced a house originally built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century but extensively rebuilt and enlarged on the circa 1588. The situation of the last house on high ground with commanding views suggested that the earlier buildings probably made use of the same location or vicinity, giving a high potential for associated remains being located at the subject site.
- 2.5 The fieldwork was conducted between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and comprised of 2 trenches, Trench 1 measuring 2m x 2m and Trench 2 measuring 2.5m x 1.5m.
- 2.6 Site records were compiled using the Museum of London code BGS12. Following the completion of the project the site archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre under that code.
- 2.7 The project was monitored by Diane Abrams of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, (GLAAS), and project-managed for PCA by Peter Moore. The evaluation was supervised by the author, Phil Frickers.

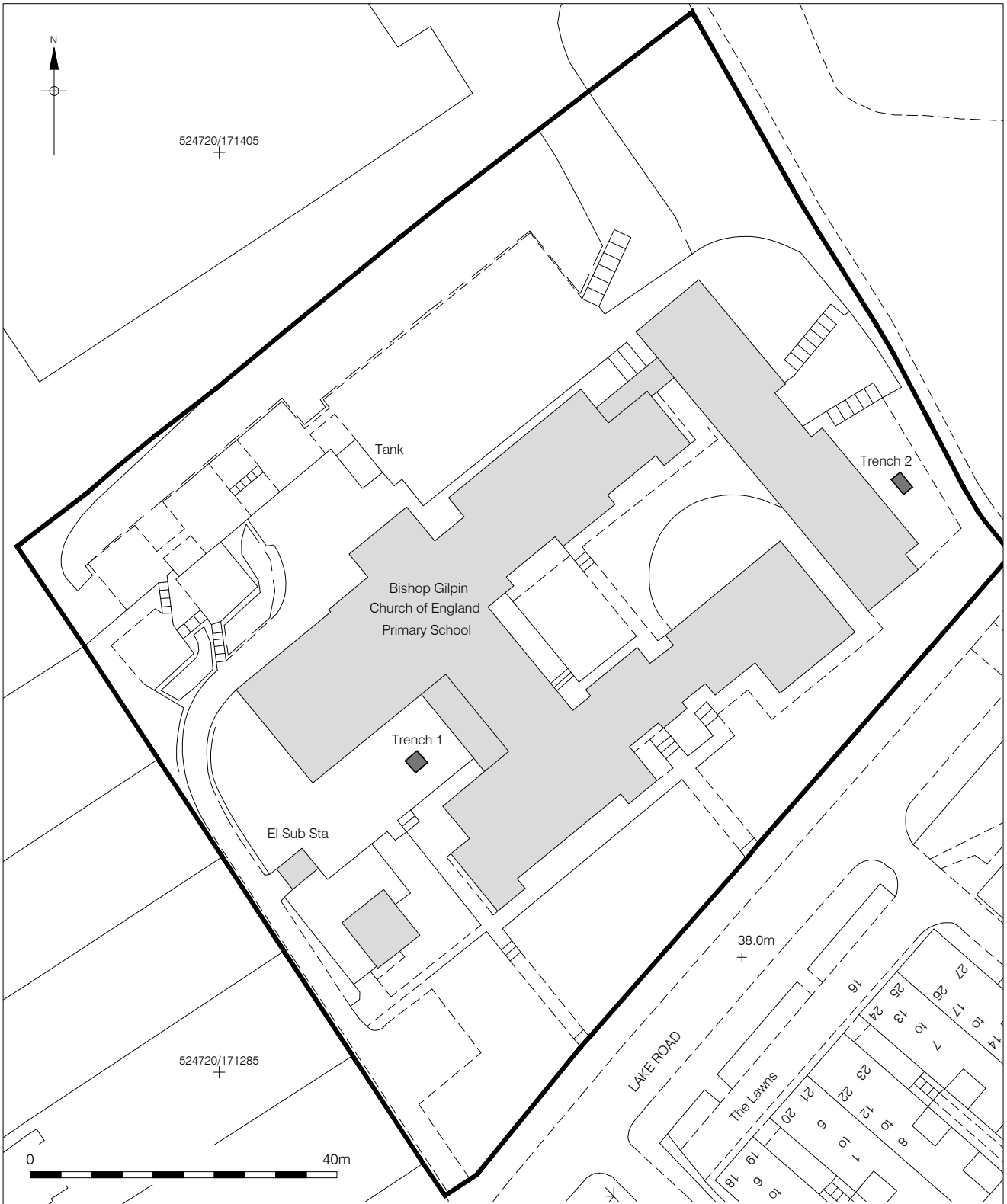


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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:750 at A4



### 3 Planning Background

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 An archaeological planning condition was applied to the planning permission for the project so as to satisfy objectives detailed in the London Borough of Merton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), adopted in 2003:

##### **Archaeology**

4.55 Archaeological remains contain irreplaceable information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. They constitute the principal surviving evidence of many aspects of our past and are a finite and non-renewable resource, which is fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. They give us a sense of both national and local identity, and are valuable not only for their own sake, but also for their role in education, leisure and tourism.

4.56 Known archaeological sites can be divided into Scheduled Ancient Monuments, other nationally important sites, and locally important sites. Merton contains three Scheduled Ancient Monuments: Merton Priory; Caesar's Camp; and Morden Park Mound.

4.57 The Ancient Monuments Acts and Planning Policy Guidance Note PPG 16 'Archaeology and Planning' set out Government policy regarding archaeological remains. Some relevant material is also found in PPG 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment'.

##### **POLICY BE.13: ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION**

THE COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE EARLY CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AFFECTING SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND THEIR SETTINGS.

(i) THERE WILL BE A GENERAL PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THE PERMANENT PHYSICAL PRESERVATION OF ALL SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND THEIR SETTINGS. PLANNING PERMISSION WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT SUCH MONUMENTS AND SITES, INVOLVE SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION TO THEM OR WOULD HAVE A HARMFUL IMPACT ON THEIR SETTINGS.

(ii) LOCALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS SHOULD PREFERABLY ALSO BE PRESERVED IN SITU. EXCEPTIONALLY, WHERE REMAINS CANNOT BE PRESERVED IN SITU, THEY WILL BE PRESERVED BY RECORD THROUGH AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK BY A RECOGNISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION BEFORE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROJECT DESIGN APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL. SUCH PROVISION SHALL ALSO INCLUDE THE SUBSEQUENT PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS.

##### Justification

4.58 The Council considers it is important to prevent potentially valuable archaeological remains and data from being destroyed without record when sites are developed. Merton has been the location of settlement from prehistoric times on and of important industrial developments from early modern times. Consequently, it is likely that there are a number of unexcavated sites across the Borough and past archaeological discoveries and documentary sources can be used to indicate where further evidence may lie buried. The Proposals Map identifies areas of particular archaeological interest which were identified by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, English Heritage in consultation with local archaeological groups. These are known as Archaeological Priority Zones and a list of such zones is included in Schedule 5 of the

*Plan. This list may change as new information becomes available. All sites on the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) are also a material consideration in the planning process. The Council will consider the use of Article 4 Directions, subject to the Secretary of State's approval, to bring activities that benefit from permitted development rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 within the scope of Planning Control in the interests of protecting archaeological remains.*

*4.59 In the case of sites with archaeological significance or potential, where permanent preservation in situ is not justified, provision shall be made by the developer for an appropriate level of archaeological assessment, investigation and analysis. This should be undertaken by a recognised archaeological organisation before development begins, in accordance with a project design approved by the Council. Such provision shall also include the subsequent publication of the results of the excavation.*

*4.60 It is probable, however, that there are other sites of archaeological importance outside these defined Zones. Each case will be treated on its merits and planning conditions and legal agreements will be applied to ensure evaluations and excavations are carried out to a satisfactory standard and archaeological remains area protected.*

*4.61 Merton has been the location of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval settlements and it is likely that there are a number of unexcavated sites across the Borough. The Council considers it is important to prevent potentially valuable archaeological remains and data from being destroyed without record when sites are developed. Developers will be expected to abide by The British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group 'Code of Practice'. The Proposals Map identifies areas of particular archaeological interest which were identified by the Museum of London in consultation with local archaeological groups. It is possible that there could be other sites of archaeological importance outside these defined boundaries. PPG16 "Archaeology and Planning" sets out Government policy regarding archaeological remains. Each case will be treated on its merits and planning conditions and legal agreements will be applied to ensure that excavations are carried out to a satisfactory standard and archaeological remains protected.*

#### **POLICY BE.14: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**BEFORE DEVELOPMENT COMMENCES ON SITE, REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE COUNCIL'S SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTE ON ARCHAEOLOGY.**

**WHERE DEVELOPMENT IS PROPOSED WITHIN AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY ZONE, AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, THE COUNCIL MAY REQUIRE A PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BEFORE PROPOSALS ARE CONSIDERED. THIS REQUIREMENT MAY ALSO BE APPLIED TO SITES OUTSIDE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY ZONES ESPECIALLY WHERE THEY ARE OVER 0.6 HA OR WHERE THERE IS PROVEN OR KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL.**

#### **Justification**

*4.62 The purpose of such evaluation will be to determine the nature and extent of archaeological remains on the development site and thus to aid the process of decision-making.*

## **4 Geology and Topography**

### **4.1 Geology**

- 4.1.1 The 1:50,000 scale British Geological Survey indicates the study site to be situated on an ridge of Black Park Gravel.

### **4.2 Topography**

- 4.2.1 The site is located on an area of land that slopes fairly steeply from north to south. To the north is the brow of a hill with extensive views to both north and south. Typical values around the school are 37.40m OD at the southern edge of the site rising to 42.70m OD along the western edge parallel with the main range of buildings.
- 4.2.2 The present primary school has been terraced into this hillside.
- 4.2.3 The site is located just over 1 km west of the north–south running River Wandle. This drains to the north where it flows into the River Thames.

## **5 Archaeological and Historical Background**

### **5.1 Post-Medieval**

5.1.1 Information on the Greater London Historic Environment Record (Ref: DLO32909) shows that the location of the Bishop Gilpin School lies a short distance to the south of the known location of the last Wimbledon Park House, which was demolished in circa 1949. The construction of this house was completed in 1733 and succeeded an attempted construction from circa 1717-1733, which replaced a house remodelled in the 1640's and demolished in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, which replaced a house originally built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century but extensively rebuilt and enlarged on the circa 1588. The situation of the last house on high ground with commanding views suggests that the earlier buildings probably made use of the same location or vicinity, giving a high potential for associated remains being located at the subject site.

5.1.2 The site is presently occupied by the Bishop Gilpin First School.

## **6 Archaeological Methodology**

- 6.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the WSI prepared by Peter Moore of Pre-Construct Archaeology (2012) prior to the commencement of works. The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 6.2 Diane Abrams, English Heritage GLAAS, requested that an archaeological condition be attached to the planning permission, requiring mitigation initially in the form of a field evaluation. Planning permission was granted and an archaeological condition imposed. In fulfilment of this mitigation 2 trenches, Trench 1 (2m x 2m) and Trench 2 (2.5 x 1.5m) were excavated.
- 6.3 A small 1.5 ton 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove overburden down to the natural deposits. Features and deposits identified within the trenches were then cleaned and investigated by hand.
- 6.4 Trench 1 was located centrally in the area to be occupied by the new staff room extension towards the western edge of the school.
- 6.5 Trench 2 was located towards the east of the area to be covered by the new Plymouth senior wave canopy on the north eastern edge of the school. This area is at present occupied by a nursery playground which has been terraced into the hillside. The long side of the trench was orientated north west-southeast.
- 6.6 The archaeological deposits were assigned individual context numbers and recorded onto pro-forma sheets and drawn in plan and section as appropriate. A photographic record (film and digital) was also made.
- 6.7 The trenches were located by means of triangulation.
- 6.8 Temporary bench marks (TBM) were established relating to the trenches excavated by traversing the value from a known bench mark at the base of the drive on the western side of the school where it met the pavement of Lake Road (37.40m OD). The site TBM values were as follows: Trench 1 42.70m OD (south of the site); Trench 2 40.67m OD.

## **7 The Archaeological Sequence**

### **7.1 Natural**

7.1.1 The natural geology observed on this site was a stiff, orangey brown clay [2] and [3]. This had height of 41.61m OD in Trench 1 and 41.51m in Trench 2. Centrally a slot was excavated into the deposit to a depth of 1.25m but no change was seen in the natural. Similarly in Trench 2 a modern service cutting into the clay to a depth of 0.65m showed no change in the material present.

### **7.2 Post-Medieval – Modern**

7.2.1 Above the natural clay in Trench 1 was a layer of dirty clay natural [1] with organic inclusions and roots 0.30m deep. This context predated the school and probably related to trees existing in the latter days of Wimbledon Park House.

7.2.2 Cut into the natural clay of Trench 2 was a 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century red ceramic field drain [4] 70mm in diameter. This drain was close to the top of the clay showing some terracing had taken place. It was orientated NE-SW following the original line of the slope with a height of 41.39m OD at the north end and 41.26m at the south end. In the south west corner it had been cut by a modern service.

7.2.3 Overlying the post-medieval activities in both trenches were layers of modern make up associated with the school buildings topped off with layers of tarmac.

## 8 Trench Summaries

<b>Trench 1</b>			
<b>Layer</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Height (m OD)</b>
Dirty Natural Clay	1	0.30	41.81m
Natural Clay	2	>1.55	41.61m
<b>Trench 2</b>			
<b>Layer</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Height (m OD)</b>
Ceramic Field Drain	4	0.07	41.39m
Natural Clay	3	>0.90	41.55m

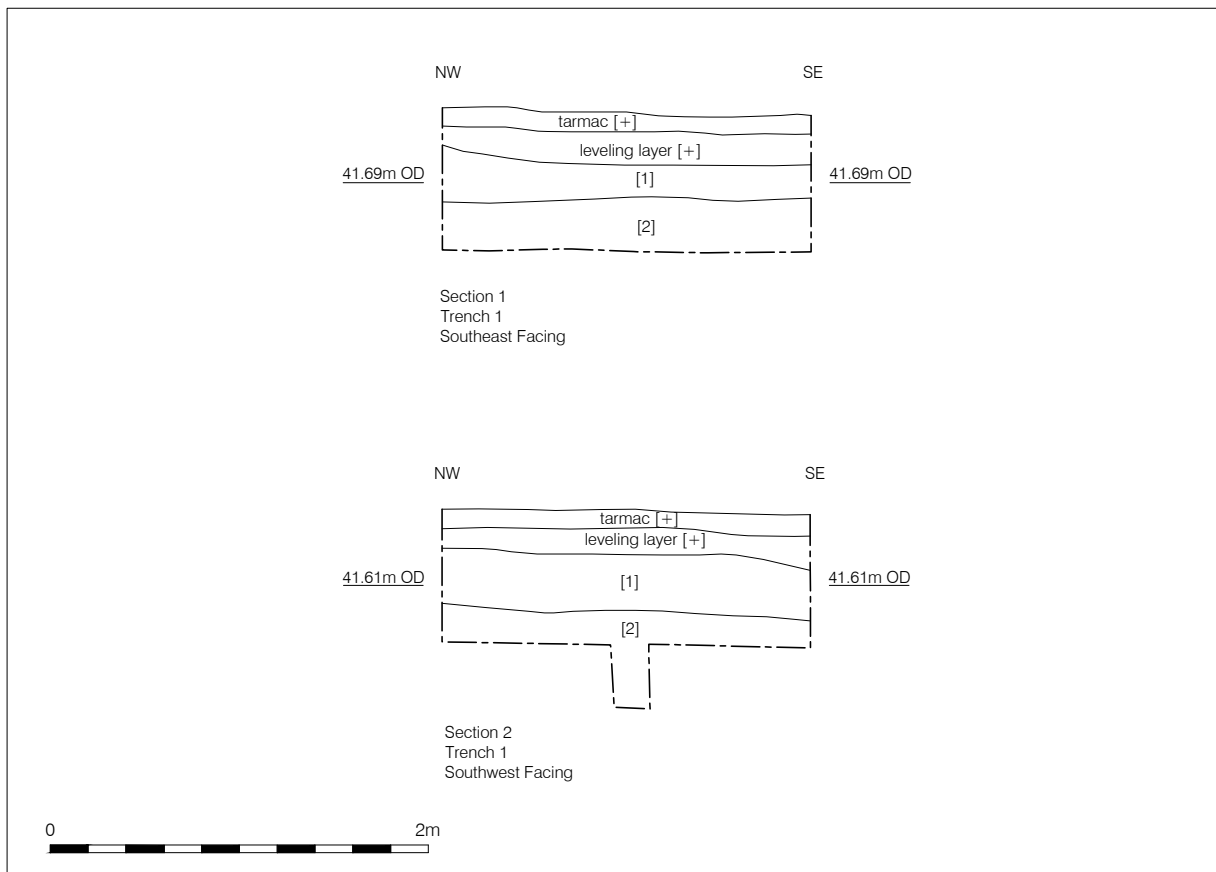
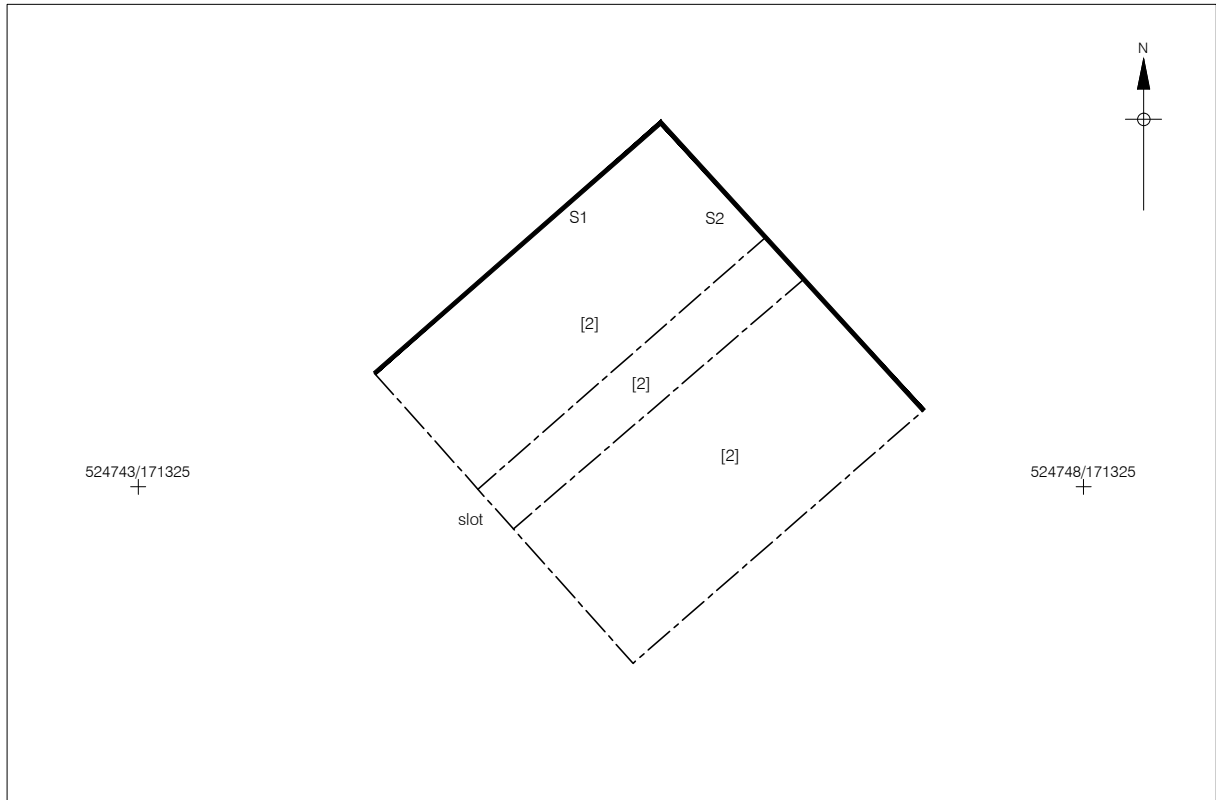


Figure 3  
Trench 1 - Plan and Section  
1:40 at A4



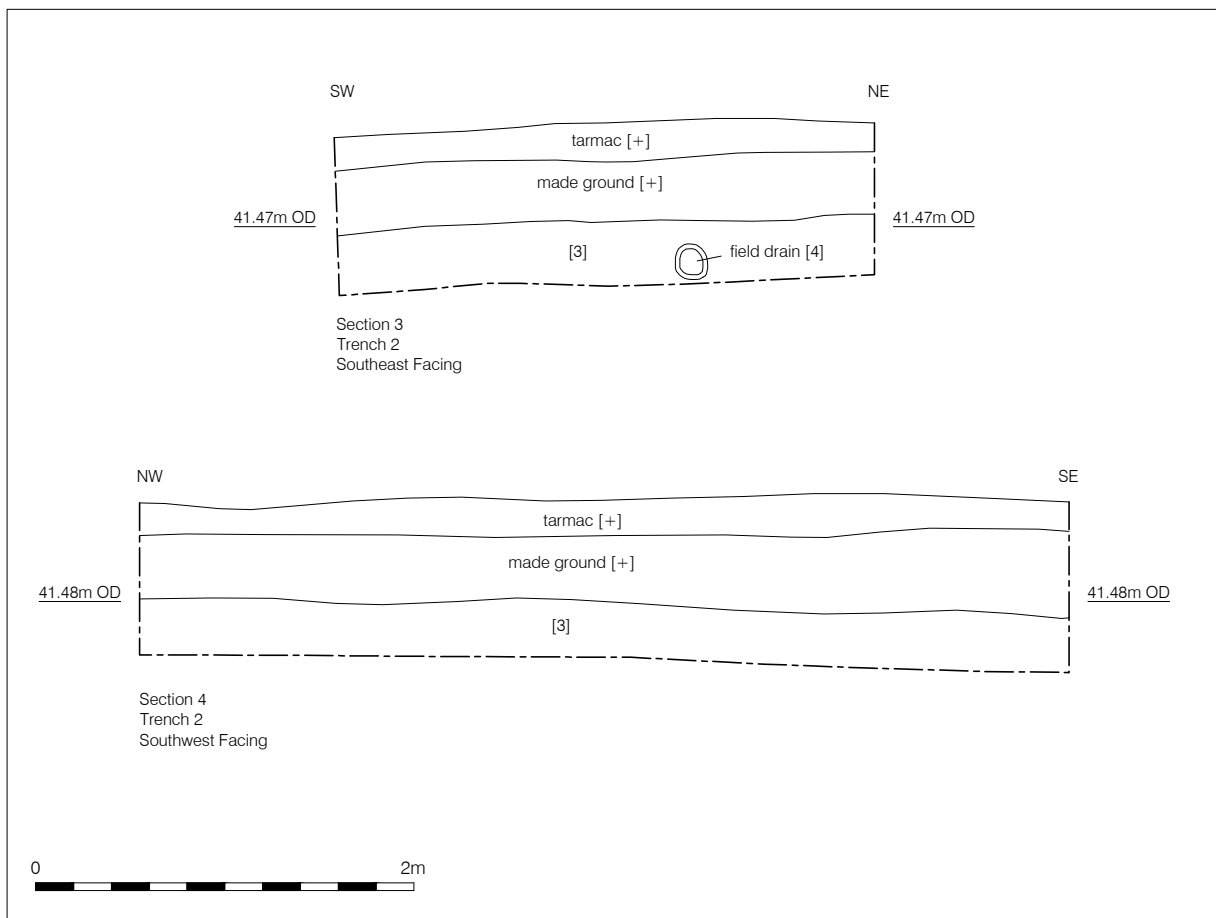
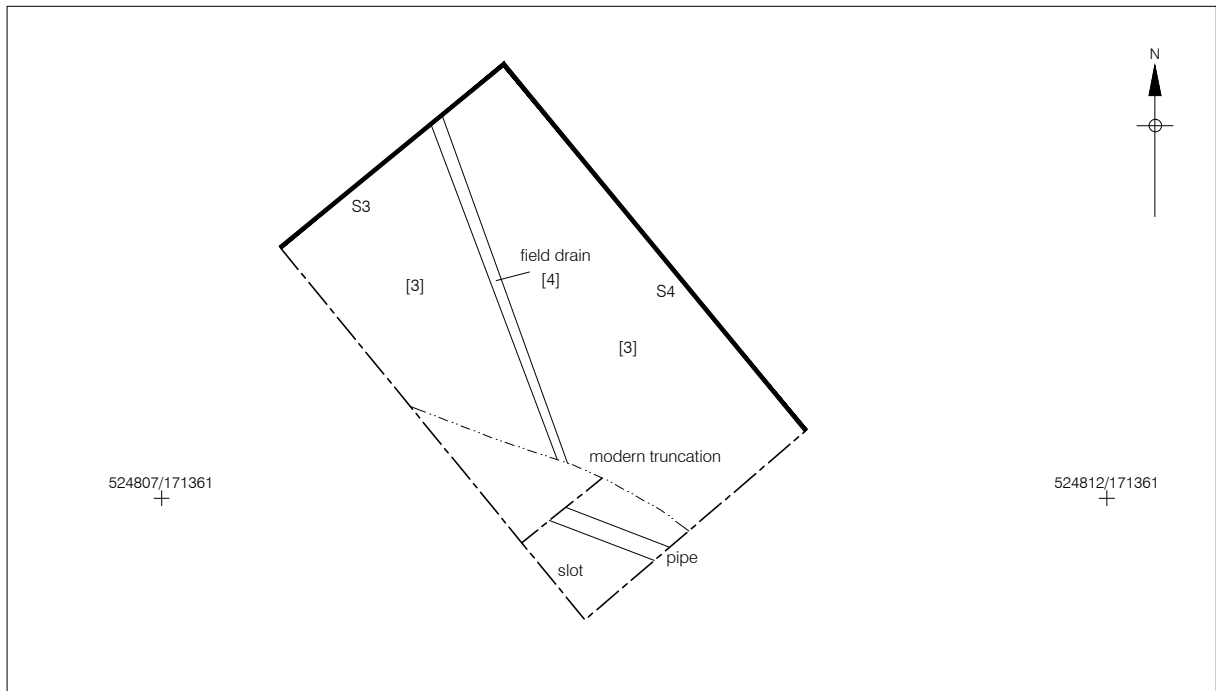


Figure 4  
Trench 2 - Plan and Section  
1:40 at A4

## 9 Conclusions

- 9.1 The principle objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to establish whether there were any significant archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. It sought to:
- To establish the presence or not of activities or remains associated with the post-medieval mansions known to have existed in the vicinity.
  - To establish the survival of material and features from other archaeological periods.
  - Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
  - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.
- 9.2 No archaeological activity prior to the late post-medieval period was found during the evaluation. A layer of dirty natural was seen in Trench 1 and a ceramic field drain was uncovered in Trench 2.
- 9.3 Natural deposits were recorded in both trenches, at a maximum height of 41.61m in Trench 1 and 41.51m OD in Trench 2. Above the dirty natural in Trench 1 this horizon was sealed by modern made ground associated with the present school buildings.
- 9.4 The findings of this evaluation suggest that the area of the site was stripped and partially terraced during the construction of the present school buildings.

## **10 Acknowledgements**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Sean Kelleher of Wilby & Burnett for commissioning this project on behalf of Bishop Gilpin School and Diane Abrams for monitoring the work undertaken.
- 10.2 The author would like to thank Ron Bhikarry for his assistance gaining access to the site. The author would also like to thank Jenny Simonson for illustrations, Matt Edmonds for his assistance on site and Chris Cooper for technical and logistical support. Additional thanks are extended to Peter Moore for project management and editing of this report.

## **11 Bibliography**

Moore, P. 2012. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at the Bishop Gilpin School, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton SW19 7EP. Pre-Construct Archaeology: Unpublished Report.

### Appendix 1: Context Index

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Date
BGS12	1	-	S1, S2	Layer	Topsoil	Post-Medieval
BGS12	2	Tr.1	S1, S2	Layer	Natural Clay	Natural
BGS12	3	Tr.2	S3, S4	Layer	Natural Clay	Natural
BGS12	4	Tr.2	S3	Ceramic	Field Drain	Post-Medieval

## **Appendix 2: OASIS Report Form**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: preconst1-123233**

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at the Bishop Gilpin School, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton SW19 7EP.
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Bishop Gilpin School, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton in order to assess the survival of remains from the nearby post-medieval Wimbledon Park House in advance of additional development of the existing school. The trenches excavated revealed only a layer of dirty natural and a field drain above natural clay.
Project dates	Start: 02-04-2012 End: 04-04-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BGS12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON Bishop Gilpin School
Postcode	SW19 7EP
Study area	180.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2476 7134 51.4268116768 -0.205269959936 51 25 36 N 000 12 18 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 41.51m Max: 41.61m

---

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore
Project supervisor	Phil Frickers
Type of sponsor/funding body	School
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bishop Gilpin School

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive	LAARC



recipient

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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