

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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Kingston University, Roehampton Vale,  
London Borough of Wandsworth

Type of project

Watching Brief

Quality Control

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kingston University, Roehampton  
Vale, London Borough of Wandsworth**

**Site Code: KUR 06**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2160 7235**

**Written and Researched by Stuart Holden  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, March 2006**

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March 2006**

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## CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT.....	3
2	INTRODUCTION.....	4
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND .....	7
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....	8
5	METHODOLOGY.....	10
6	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.....	11
7	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE .....	12
8	CONCLUSIONS.....	17
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	18
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	19

## ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION .....	5
FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF INVESTIGATED AREAS .....	6
FIGURE 3: SECTIONS OF TRIAL PITS .....	16

## APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SELECTION OF RECORDS HELD BY ADS.....	20
APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM .....	22

# 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Kingston University, Roehampton Vale London Borough of Wandsworth. The work consisted of monitoring the excavation of geotechnical test pits and boreholes.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Kingston University, Roehampton Vale London Borough of Wandsworth. (Figure 1) on a geotechnical investigation. It is proposed to provide an extension to the present building, to the east over a modern car-park.
- 2.2 The work was conducted between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006 and was commissioned by Ove Arup and Partners Limited on behalf of Kingston University.
- 2.3 The watching brief constituted the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of three geotechnical test pits and five boreholes (Figure 2).
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the centre of the site is TQ 2160 7235
- 2.5 The unique code KUR 06 was assigned to the project.
- 2.6 The work was undertaken by Stuart Holden and the project managed by Peter Moore for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

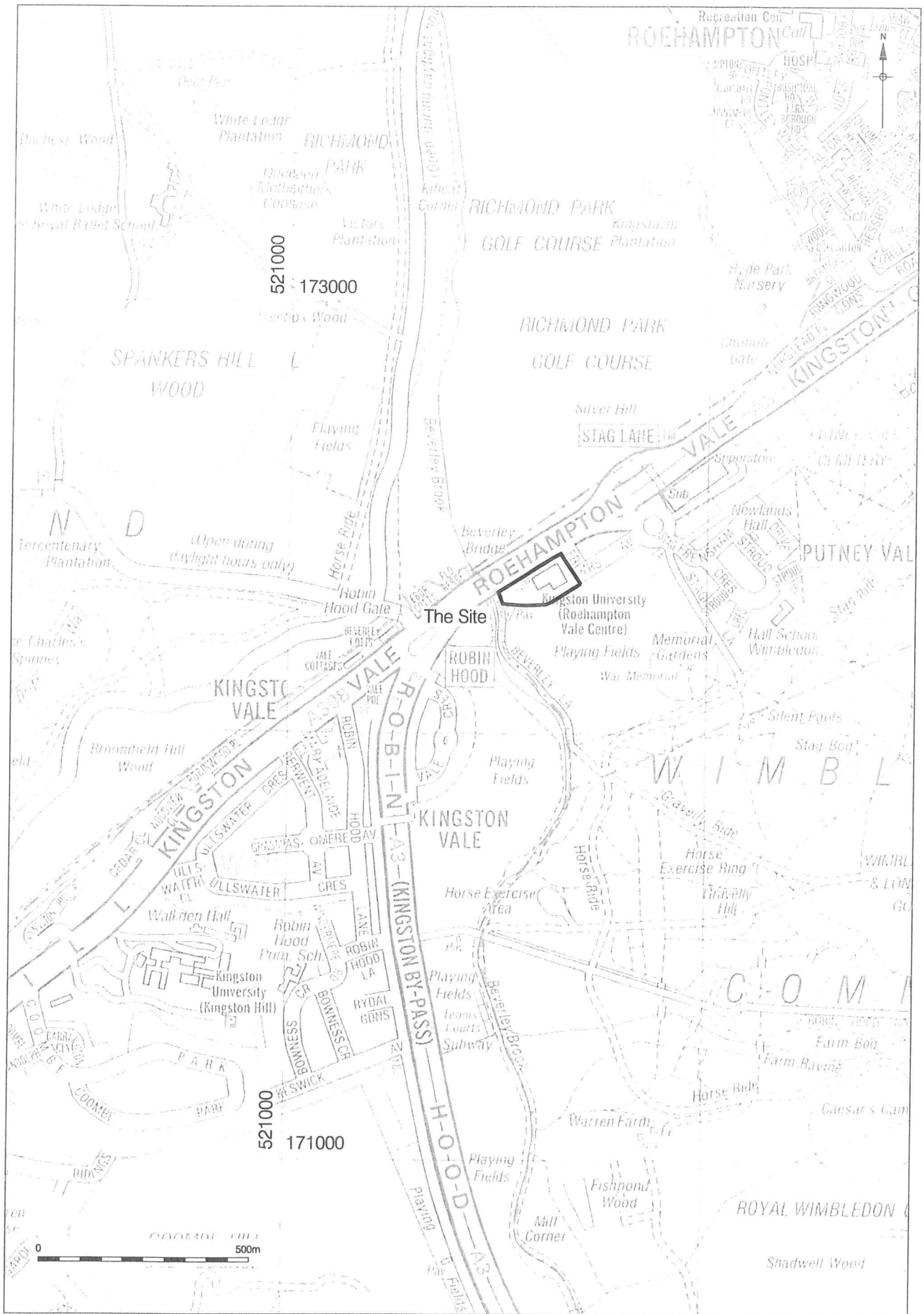


Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:12,500

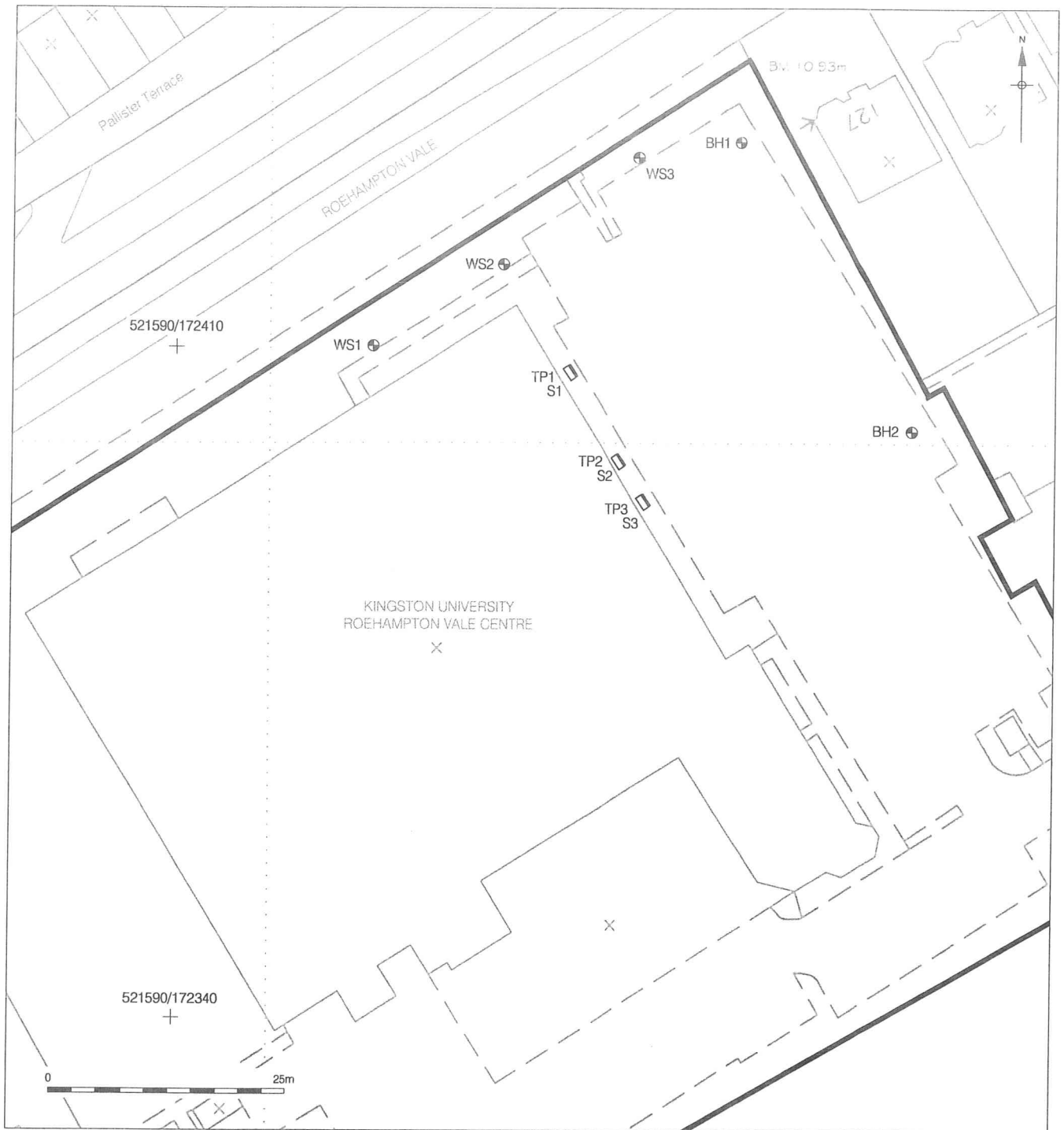


Figure 2  
 Test Pit, Window Hole and Borehole Locations  
 1:625

### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Planning background

3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of London Borough of Wandsworth, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The London Borough of Wandsworth published its adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) in 2003 that contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

#### Archaeology

##### Objective

*• To ensure the preservation or recording of important archaeological remains.*

78. Archaeological remains are part of the Borough's heritage and should not be destroyed without record. Modern methods of site clearance tend to destroy remains, though redevelopment may provide an opportunity to carry out archaeological investigation. English Heritage has identified areas of greatest likely archaeological importance in the Borough called Archaeological Priority Areas (see Proposals Map). These include the Thames and the Wandle Valley. Many archaeological finds have been found outside these areas and important remains may be found elsewhere in the Borough. The Council will consult, and be guided by English Heritage (Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service) on the archaeological implications of development proposals. When there is good reason to believe that there are remains of archaeological importance on a site, the Council will consider directing applicants to supply further details of proposed development, including the results of archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation, before the application is determined. In appropriate cases developers should adopt measures, which allow the remains to be permanently preserved in situ. In other cases, the Council will require provision for the excavation and recording of the remains prior to development commencing, and the analysis, interpretation and appropriate publication of results. Archaeological investigations should be carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice of the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group.

**Policy TBE14** Where development involving ground disturbance is proposed in Archaeological Priority Areas, the Council will require developers to make provision for archaeological investigation. Normally the submission of an archaeological evaluation report will be requested prior to determination. Archaeological investigation may also be required elsewhere in sites of archaeological potential.

**Policy TBE15** In appropriate cases, the Council may also require preservation in situ, or excavation. The recording and publication of results will normally be required.

#### 3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The watching brief aimed to:

- Locate, define, record and date any surviving archaeological deposits, features or finds on the site.
- Locate and define previous activities which have truncated earlier archaeological remains.
- Locate and define any Prehistoric or Roman activities on the site.
- Locate and define any Medieval or Post-Medieval settlement, agricultural practices or other activities on the site.



## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was not prepared prior to the commencement of the watching brief. This was because Arup and English Heritage had determined from the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record that no archaeological finds were known from the site or nearby and despite modern developments there. It was therefore considered that the best way forward was to examine the ground conditions from the engineering site investigation. A brief scan of entries held by the Archaeology Data Service, based at the University of York was made and a selection of the entries is included in Appendix 2 of this report. Below is a summary of information gleaned from this exercise.

### 4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 There have been a number of flint artefacts and assemblages found across Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park and Putney Heath dating through the Palaeolithic to Neolithic periods. A Bronze Age axe has been recovered from Wimbledon Common and a palstave from 'near to *Caesar's Camp*', an earthwork enclosure located 1.5km to the southeast of the site that is likely to be an Iron Age univallate hillfort.

### 4.3 Roman

4.3.1 The modern A3 (Roehampton Vale) follows the alignment of the major Roman road known as Stane Street. A number of coin hoards have been recovered from the region of *Caesar's Camp*.

### 4.4 Saxon

4.4.1 The limited research conducted did not highlight any Saxon activity in the area. Further study may be more conducive.

### 4.5 Medieval

4.5.1 Richmond Park, which expands out to the north, northwest and west from the opposite side of Roehampton Vale is the largest open space in London and is a Royal Park. The royal connection began with Edward (1272-1307), when the area was known as the Manor of Sheen.

### 4.6 Post-medieval

4.6.1 During Henry VII's reign, the name of the Manor of Sheen was changed to Richmond. In 1625 Charles I brought his court to Richmond Palace to escape the plague in

London and turned it into a park for red and fallow deer. His decision, in 1637, to enclose the land was not popular with the local residents, but he did allow pedestrians the right of way. To this day the walls remain, although they have been partially rebuilt and reinforced.

- 4.6.2 In 1847 Pembroke Lodge became the home of the then Prime Minister, Lord John Russell and was later the childhood home of his grandson, Bertrand Russell (<http://www.royalparks.gov.uk>).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

- 5.1 The fieldwork was designed to record any archaeologically sensitive deposits in order that a more informed approach may be taken in assessing the impact that proposed development ground works would have on such deposits.
- 5.2 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage (GLAAS 1998) and the Institute of Field Archaeology (IFA, 2001).
- 5.3 The excavation of the geotechnical test pits was monitored and the resultant sections were recorded. The material cast from the boreholes and window holes was examined and where available, the logs were assessed.
- 5.4 The approximate value for the present ground level at +10.5m OD has been calculated from spot heights located on Roehampton Vale.

## 6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6.1 The site lies approximately 100m to the east of Beverly Brook, a tributary that flows north into the River Thames some 4km to the north-northeast. The Geological Survey Sheet 270 for South London indicates that the site is positioned upon a narrow band of Kempton Park Gravel with Head deposits present c.100m to the east, and alluvium immediately to the west.

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The three Trial Pits were excavated along the northeastern side, and adjacent to the building measuring approximately 1.5m by 0.75m in plan. Each of the boreholes and window holes was approximately 0.20m in diameter and positioned along the northwestern and northeastern boundaries of the site.

7.1.2 The general sequence across the site was London Clay at c.+7.5m OD, c.1.0m thick sand and gravel layer, c.0.70m thick alluvial deposit and up to c.1.5m of made ground. Where the made ground was archaeologically inspected it comprised mid brownish grey sandy silt with sand and gravel inclusions. Given that the made ground contained 20<sup>th</sup> century brick pieces it is considered that the formation is modern. The made ground would appear to have no archaeological interest. The alluvium was generally found to be dark grey sandy silt and was not rich in organic material. It had a slight smell associated with anaerobic conditions where organic remains are below the water table or in the vadose zone.

### 7.2 Trial Pit 1

Depth bgl	Approx. +mOD	Context	Description
0	10.5	01	Sand and pebbles
0.30	10.2	02	Made ground
0.80	9.7	03	Dark grey sandy silt alluvium
1.50	9.0	04	Mid greenish brown/grey sandy silt clay and flint gravel
1.55	8.95		End of excavation

### 7.3 Trial Pit 2

Depth bgl	Approx. +mOD	Context	Description
0	10.5	01	Sand and pebbles
0.30	10.2	02	Made ground
0.80	9.7	03	Dark grey sandy silt alluvium
1.50	9.0	04	Mid greenish brown/grey sandy silt clay and flint

			gravel
1.70	8.2	05	Mid greenish grey sand and gravel ≤60mm $\phi$
2.00	8.5		End of excavation

#### 7.4 Trial Pit 3

Depth bgl	Approx. +mOD	Context	Description
0	10.5	01	Sand and pebbles
0.30	10.2	02	Made ground
1.3	9.2	03	Dark grey sandy silt alluvium
1.40	9.0		End of excavation

#### 7.5 Borehole 1

Depth bgl	Approx. +mOD	Context	Description
0.3	10.2	13	Mid brownish grey sand and gravel levelling
1.0	9.5	14	Mid brownish grey silty sand and gravel with red brick fragments made ground
1.0- 1.45	9.5-9.05	15	Mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal fleck
2.5- 2.95	8-7.55	16	Light brown sand and gravel ≤60mm $\phi$ poorly sorted
3.5- 3.95	7.0-6.55	17	Stiff mid to dark grey silty clay (London Clay)
4.00	6.5	18	Stiff mid to dark grey silty clay (London Clay)

#### 7.6 Borehole 2

Depth bgl	Approx. +mOD	Context	Description
0.3	10.2	06	Mid brownish grey sand and gravel levelling
1.0	9.5	07	Mid brownish grey silty sand and gravel made ground
1.0- 1.45	9.5-9.05	08	Mid grey sandy silt slight organic odour, inclusion of cbm (ceramic building material) orange handmade

			brick with sand inclusions and soft white lime mortar (probably 18 <sup>th</sup> century in date)
1.5-1.95	9-8.55	09	As [08] but softer and no finds
2.0	8.5	10	Mid greenish brown/grey sandy silt clay very occasional flint $\leq 30\text{mm}\varnothing$ oxidises to light yellowish brown (Alluvium)
2.0-2.45	8.5-8.05	11	Light brown sand and gravel $\leq 60\text{mm}\varnothing$ poorly sorted
3.00	7.5	12	Stiff mid to dark grey silty clay (London Clay)

### 7.7 Window Hole 1

7.7.1 The following descriptions were taken directly from the log made by the geotechnical engineer.

Depth bgl	Approx. +mOD	Description
0.10	10.4	Topsoil
0.90	9.6	Made ground
1.00	9.5	Yellow gravelly sand
1.10	9.4	Void
1.60	8.9	Dark brown sandy clay, charcoal fleck and gravel
2.00	8.5	Dark brown sandy clay, reddish and yellow sand patches
2.45	8.05	Sand and gravel
2.60	7.9	Brown coarse sand
2.95	7.55	Orange coarse sand
3.10	7.4	Brown sand
3.50	7.0	Yellow coarse sand
3.80	6.7	Brown coarse sand
4.00	6.5	Brown sandy clay

### 7.8 Window Hole 2

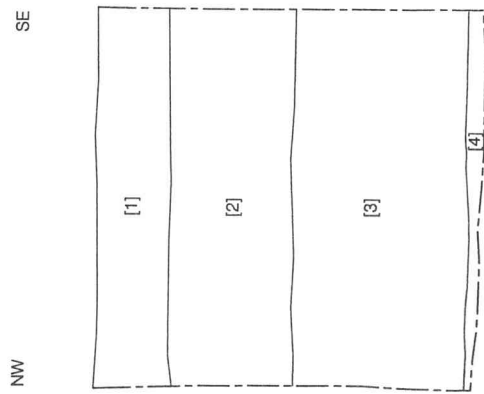
7.8.1 Neither the samples taken, nor the log of the sinking of this hole were available for assessment.

### 7.9 Window Hole 3

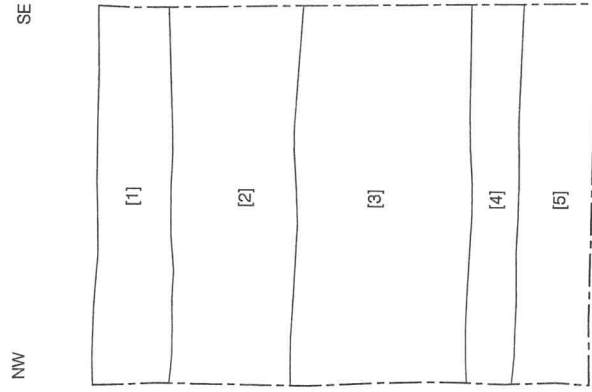
7.9.1 The log for this hole was not available for assessment. A rough description of the sequence could be formed from the cast material.

<b>Depth bgl</b>	<b>Approx. +mOD</b>	<b>Description</b>
0-1.0m	9.5	Made ground, dark grey sandy silt
2.0	8.5	Made ground light brownish grey sandy silt
3.0	7.5	Light brownish yellow sand and gravel
4.0	6.5	Light brown sand and gravel
5.0	5.5	Stiff brownish grey clay

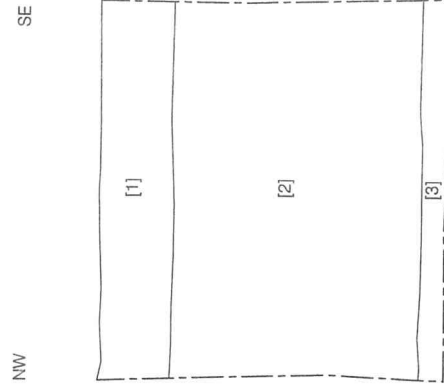




Section 1  
TP1  
South West Facing



Section 2  
TP2  
South West Facing



Section 3  
TP3  
South West Facing



## 8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 No archaeological resources were found from the trial pits and boreholes. However the investigation was a relatively small sample of the development area.
- 8.2 The results of the watching brief suggest that the degree of truncation across the site is localised to previous recent developments and that in general, the alluvium and Kempton Park Gravels survive relatively intact beneath the modern made ground. This implies that if any archaeologically significant activity has taken part upon the site, deposits and/or artefacts are likely to survive within the alluvium or cut into it from above.
- 8.3 Given that the alluvium is in a valley bottom it may contain ecofacts of archaeological interest related to the local historic landscape from Prehistoric to Post-Medieval times.

## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Richard Hughes and Alice Bradbury of Ove Arup and Partners Limited for commissioning the work on behalf of Kingston University and Milan Dedic of Concept Consultancies for their co-operation and support on site. The author would like to thank the CAD staff at PCA for providing the illustrations, and Peter Moore for editing the report.

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Institute of Field Archaeologist 2001(revised) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

London Borough of Wandsworth 2003 *Unitary Development Plan (UDP)*

Moore, P 2006 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Kingston University, Roehampton Vale, London Borough of Wandsworth Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd unpublished report

<http://www.royalparks.gov.uk>

# APPENDIX 1: SELECTION OF RECORDS HELD BY ADS

"ADS Record ID"	"Title"	"Description"	"Location"	Eastings	Northing	"Subject(s)"	"Period(s)"	"Intervention(s)"	"Project dates"	"Other Identifiers"
"GLSMR-020765"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"WANDSWORTH"	WANDSWORTH	"522000"	"172000"	"FLAKE"	"Prehistoric unspecified"			"Depositor ID: 020765"
"GLSMR-031720"	"COOMBE HILL(?) THAMES"	"KINGSTON UPON THAMES"	KINGSTON UPON THAMES	"521000"	"171000"	"FLINT ARTEFACT"	"Prehistoric unspecified"			"Depositor ID: 031720"
"GLSMR-020784"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"WANDSWORTH"	WANDSWORTH	"523000"	"172000"	"FLAKE"	"Prehistoric unspecified"			"Depositor ID: 020784"
"GLSMR-020785"	"PUTNEY HEATH WANDSWORTH"	"PUTNEY HEATH WANDSWORTH"	WANDSWORTH	"523000"	"173000"	"IMPLEMENT"	"Prehistoric unspecified"			"Depositor ID: 020785"
"GLSMR-020804"	"GLEN ALBYN RD WANDSWORTH"	"GLEN ALBYN RD WANDSWORTH"	WANDSWORTH	"523000"	"172000"	"FLINT ARTEFACT"	"Palaeolithic"			"Depositor ID: 020804"
"GLSMR-030610"	"WIMBLETON"	"MERTON"	MERTON	"524000"	"171000"	"FLAKE"	"Palaeolithic"			"Depositor ID: 030610"
"GLSMR-030608"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"FLINT ARTEFACT"	"Palaeolithic"			"Depositor ID: 030608"
"GLSMR-020827"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"WANDSWORTH"	WANDSWORTH	"522000"	"172000"	"FLINT ASSEMBLAGE"	"Upper Palaeolithic"			"Depositor ID: 020827"
"GLSMR-031719"	"COOMBE HILL(?) THAMES"	"KINGSTON UPON THAMES"	KINGSTON UPON THAMES	"521000"	"171000"	"AXE"	"Mesolithic"			"Depositor ID: 031719"
"GLSMR-030616"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	MERTON	"522000"	"172000"	"FLINT ARTEFACT"	"Mesolithic"			"Depositor ID: 030616"
"GLSMR-030615"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"FLINT ARTEFACT"	"Mesolithic"			"Depositor ID: 030615"
"GLSMR-031889"	"COOMBE HILL THAMES"	"KINGSTON UPON THAMES"	KINGSTON UPON THAMES	"521000"	"171000"	"AXE"	"Neolithic"			"Depositor ID: 031889"
"GLSMR-030635"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"IMPLEMENT"	"Neolithic"			"Depositor ID: 030635"
"GLSMR-030625"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"FINDS"	"Neolithic"			"Depositor ID: 030625"
"GLSMR-030620"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"SCRAPER"	"Neolithic"			"Depositor ID: 030620"
"GLSMR-030773"	"CAESARS CAMP(NEAR TO) WIMBLETON"	"CAESARS CAMP(NEAR TO) WIMBLETON"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"PALSTAVE"	"Bronze Age"			"Depositor ID: 030773"
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"GLSMR-031723"	"HILL CREST THAMES"	"KINGSTON UPON THAMES"	KINGSTON UPON THAMES	"520000"	"171000"	"POTSHERD"	"Iron Age"			"Depositor ID: 031723"
"NMRMIC-3711"	"CAESARS CAMP WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	Merton LB	"522300"	"171000"	"Pit, Post Hole, Ridge And Furrow, Trackway, Unvalleate Hillfort, Iron Age	"Iron Age, Medieval"	Watching Brief	1937, 1997	"Site code: CCM97, Site code: R11, Depositor ID: 3711"
"GLSMR-020774"	"OAKLANDS HOUSE WANDSWORTH"	"OAKLANDS HOUSE WANDSWORTH"	WANDSWORTH	"524000"	"172000"	"COIN HOARD"	"Roman"			"Depositor ID: 020774"
"GLSMR-020773"	"KINGSTON RD WANDSWORTH"	"KINGSTON RD WANDSWORTH"	WANDSWORTH	"522000"	"173000"	"COIN HOARD"	"Roman"			"Depositor ID: 020773"
"GLSMR-031314"	"2 THE BRIARS WANDSWORTH"	"2 THE BRIARS WANDSWORTH"	WANDSWORTH	"522000"	"175000"	"COIN"	"Roman"			"Depositor ID: 031314"

"GLSMR-021222"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	"BEAKER - WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"BEAKER"	"Roman"	"Depositor ID: 021222"
"GLSMR-030663"	"CAESARS CAMP"	"MERTON"	"COIN HOARD - CAESARS CAMP"	"MERTON"	"CAESARS CAMP"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"COIN HOARD"	"Roman"	"Depositor ID: 030663"
"GLSMR-021221"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	"BARROW GROUP - WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"BARROW GROUP"	"Unknown"	"Depositor ID: 021221"
"GLSMR-030681"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	"EARTHWORK(UNCLASSIFIED) - WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"EARTHWORK(UNCLASSIFIED)"	"Unknown"	"Depositor ID: 030681"
"GLSMR-030679"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	"POTSHERD - WIMBLETON COMMON"	"MERTON"	"WIMBLETON COMMON"	MERTON	"522000"	"171000"	"POTSHERD"	"Unknown"	"Depositor ID: 030679"
"NMRMC-3285"	"6-10 MARRYAT ROAD"	"WIMBLETON"	"6-10 MARRYAT ROAD"	"6-10 MARRYAT ROAD"	WIMBLETON	Merton LB	"523800"	"171200"	"Feature, Formal Garden"	Early medieval, Medieval, Post Medieval	" Site code: MRR81, Depositor ID: 3285"
"EHNMR-1307799"	"WOODVIEW CLOSE"	"KINGSTON VALE"	"Evaluation in advance of proposed residential development recorded late post-medieval garden features only. Funded by Thirstone Homes."	"WOODVIEW CLOSE"	KINGSTON VALE	KINGSTON UPON THAMES	"520000"	"171000"	"FIELD DRAIN, FLOWER BED, GARDEN FEATURE"	"Post Medieval"	Site code: WVC99, AIP Record Number C.01, 4029, SMR Number (Greater London) 025547, Depositor ID: 1307799
"EHNMR-1374219"	"QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL"	"ROEHAMPTON LANE"	"Assessment in advance of proposed hospital development was followed by a building survey (Event 1368863)."	"WANDSWORTH"	GREAT LONDON	England	"522000"	"174000"	"COUNTRY HOUSE"	"Post Medieval"	" AIP Record Number B.01.6107, Depositor ID: 1374219
"GLSMR-200400"	"RICHMOND PARK"	"RICHMOND"	"DEER PARK - RICHMOND PARK"	"RICHMOND"	"RICHMOND PARK"	RICHMOND	"520000"	"173000"	"DEER PARK"	"Post Medieval"	"Depositor ID: 200400"
"MOLGAZ-670"	"Kingston Polytechnic"	"Kingston Hill"	"Kingston Hill Excavation in January and February 1991 revealed no archaeological features or finds."	"Kingston"	KT2	Kingston-upon-Thames	"520600"	"171400"	" "	"Unknown"	"Depositor ID: KIP91"

## APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-13525

### Project details

Project name	Kingston University, Roehampton Vale
Short description of the project	Watching brief undertaken on the excavation of geotechnical trial pits and drilling of boreholes and window samples.
Project dates	Start: 06-03-2006 End: 07-03-2006
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project code	KUR 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON WANDSWORTH Kingston University, Roehampton Vale
Postcode	SW15
Study area	1000.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 2160 7235 Point
Height OD	Min: 8.00m Max: 8.50m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Concept
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore
Project supervisor	Stuart Holden
Sponsor or funding body	Ove Arup & Partners Limited