

An Archaeological Watching Brief (Phase III) at All Saints Primary School, Bishops Avenue, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Site Code: BIF 02

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2415 7635

**Written and Researched by William Johnston
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., August 2006**

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**Commissioning Client: Frankham Consultancy Group Ltd on behalf of
the Board of Governors of All Saints Primary School**

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1 ABSTRACT

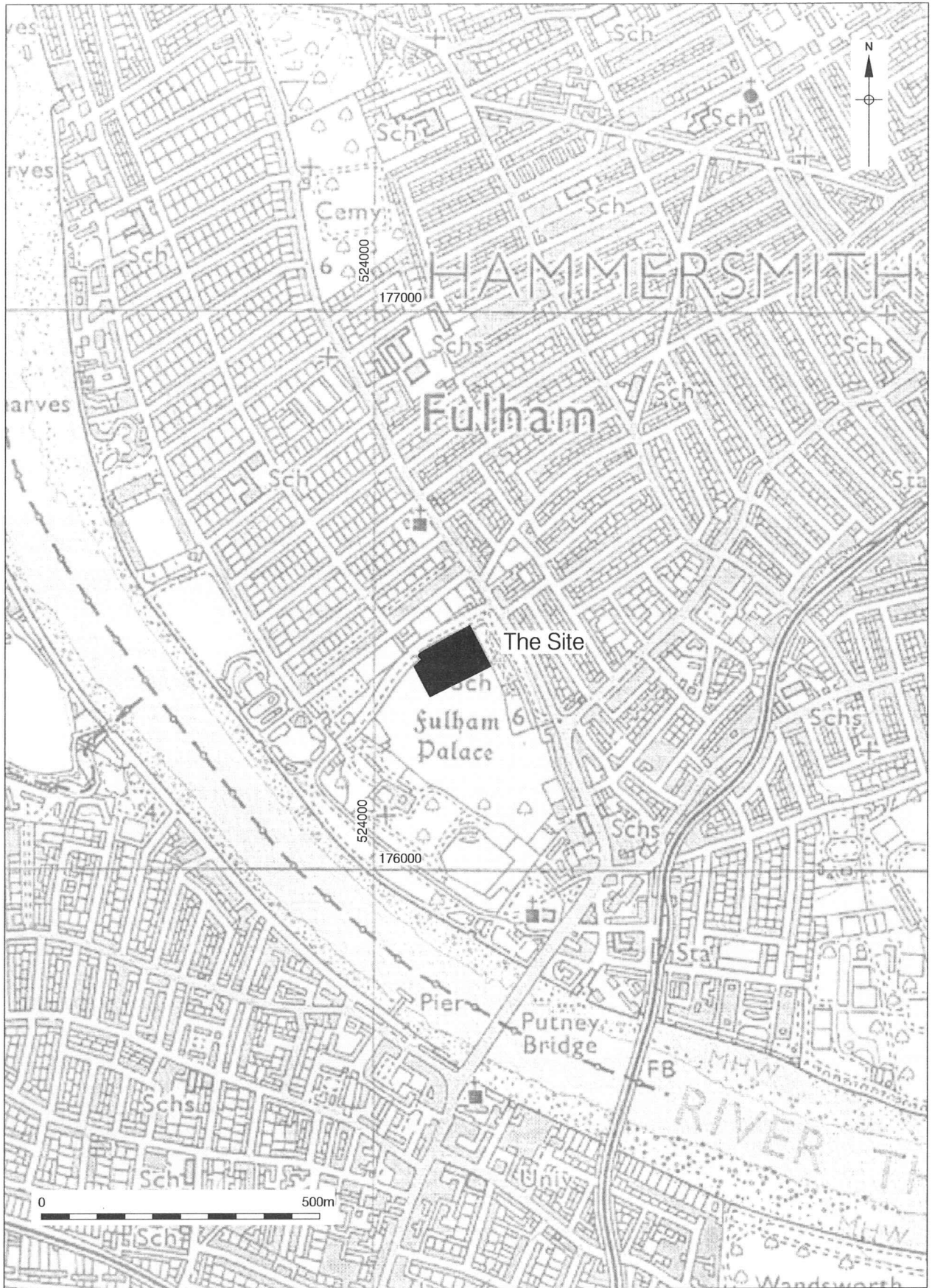
- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief at All Saints Primary School, Bishops Avenue, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The project was commissioned by Frankham Consultancy Ltd. on behalf of the Board of Governors of All Saints Primary School as part of the continuing landscaping works at the site.
- 1.2 The site is located within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Fulham Palace. As a result of this, any intrusive groundworks require archaeological attention. The watching brief monitored all excavation at the site, associated with the construction of a new driveway and gate into the grounds of the school.
- 1.3 No archaeologically significant deposits or features prior to the late 19th century were found due to the minimal impact of groundworks.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on the site of All Saints Primary School, Bishops Avenue, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (figure 1). The watching brief was conducted between and August 2006 and was commissioned by Frankham Consultancy Group Limited on behalf of the Board of Governors of All Saints Primary School, and followed two previous phases of work¹. The watching brief was conducted by William Johnston and the project managed by Chris Mayo, both of PCA.
- 2.2 The watching brief followed the specification set out in a previous method statement² [for the site which followed the methodology set out in: '*Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*'; '*Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Reports*'; '*Archaeological Guidance Paper 5: Evaluations*'].
- 2.3 The site is located within the grounds of Fulham Palace of which the moated area is scheduled as Ancient Monument (No. 134) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, amended 1983. The Phase III watching brief followed the same methodology as Phases I and II; it was also done under the remit of the Scheduled Monument Consent application made for the Phase I works. Phases I, II and III are part of the ongoing landscaping works at the school.
- 2.4 The NGR for the site is TQ 2415 7635.
- 2.5 The site code is BIF 02.

1 Bradley T., 2004; Maher S., 2002

2 Butler J., 2003



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:10 000

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The origin of the moat is unknown but theories suggesting an Iron Age or Danish origin have been made. The first apparent documentation dates to between 1163-80 AD³ and the moat has been generally considered to be of medieval origin. It has been claimed to be the largest medieval example in England, enclosing approximately 14.5 hectares around Fulham Palace, the residence of the Bishops of London. Since the discovery of a Roman settlement in Putney, the date of the riverside portion of the moat has been reconsidered with suggestions that it is similar in form to an early empire Roman defensive earthwork.
- 3.2 Previous excavations have been conducted by Paul Arthur and Keith Waterhouse on behalf of the Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group in October 1972. This consisted of a trench 22.8 by 3 metres to the south of the moated site. This found evidence of pre-Roman, Roman and post-medieval activity⁴.
- 3.3 In May 1998 Dr. Warwick Rodwell completed a detailed archaeological appraisal for the Fulham Palace site. This concluded that the river crossing point was of more than just local importance, was established no later than Roman times, and that the Viking interlude had a major impact on the formation of Fulham with a typical D-shaped enclosure centred on the ancient fording place⁵.
- 3.4 A watching brief by Pre-Construct Archaeology in the Bishops Park Moat Garden in 2002 found only three residual Roman pottery sherds within the topsoil⁶. However, the impact on the ground was minimal. In 2004 three test pits were hand dug by Pre-Construct Archaeology in All Saints Primary School's grounds⁷. A group of highly abraded body sherds, whose fabric is consistent with a Bronze Age to early Iron Age date, were found within the topsoil, as were an undiagnostic struck flint flake and fragments of burnt flint. It is suggested this indicates activity in the area at that time.
- 3.5 Other work in the area included an auger transect survey undertaken during a watching brief by Pre-Construct Archaeology⁸.

3 Arthur & Whitehouse, 1978

4 *ibid.*

5 Fulham Palace Conservation Management Plan, Draft 1999, pages 9,10

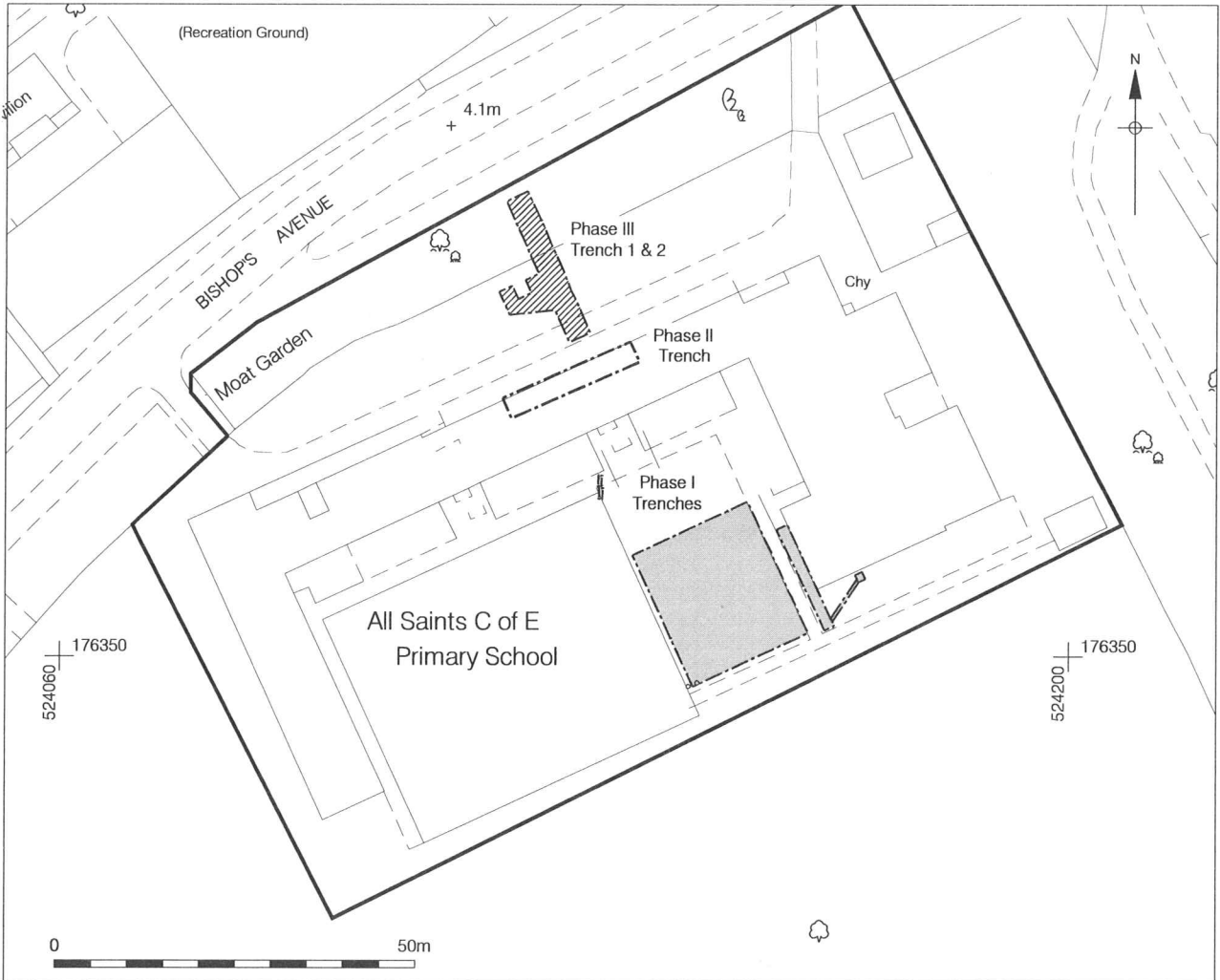
6 Maher, 2002

7 Bradley, 2004

8 Sayer,

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The area affected by the laying of a new driveway (Trench 1) was marked out and cleared of leaf litter on the August 2006 by the contractor, Hobart Paving Company Ltd, before the topsoil was machined away using a mini-excavator with a small toothless bucket. Following this operation a large tree stump was removed with a small toothed bucket. The pre-existing path to the school bicycle shed was stripped of its felt surface, and its make-up was partially machined away in order to level the slope of the ground for the laying of the new driveway. A subsidiary area (Trench 2), south of, and adjoining Trench 1, was machined down 200mm on the August.
- 4.2 The previous watching brief reports provided the data necessary to locate and level the trenches. All deposits and features were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets, and plans and sections drawn at various scales.



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1000

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 5.1 The earliest deposit observed was a dark greyish brown sandy silt [205] extending throughout Trench 1, lying between 4.64m and 3.80m OD. A late century plate fragment was recovered just below the formation level of the driveway. Tree roots disturbed this deposit in the NW half of the trench.
- 5.2 Sealing [205], in the NW half of Trench 1, was a deposit composed of a light reddish brown sandy clay silt with frequent subangular inclusions [204]. It lay between 5.10m and 4.56m OD. Some 19th century brick rubble was recovered from it. Tree roots had heavily disturbed this dumped deposit.
- 5.3 Cutting [204] was a vertically sided NE-SW linear feature [203], 1.20m wide, infilled with brick rubble (19th to 20th century) and slate fragments [202]. A fragment of glazed red and black ceramic drain was noted in the fill. This feature lies at 4.84m OD in Trench 1, and is probably a cut for a drain, perhaps originally brick-lined and capped with slate tiles.
- 5.4 In the east half of Trench 1 the levelling layer [206] for a ramp (accessing a bicycle shed just to the south of Trench 2) was partly removed during machining. This lay between 4.52m and 3.82m OD, and was composed of orange sand.
- 5.5 Topsoil [201], lying between 5.42m and 4.10m OD, and 0.25m to 0.30m thick, was neither entirely removed from the extreme NW part of Trench 1, nor from the whole of Trench 2.

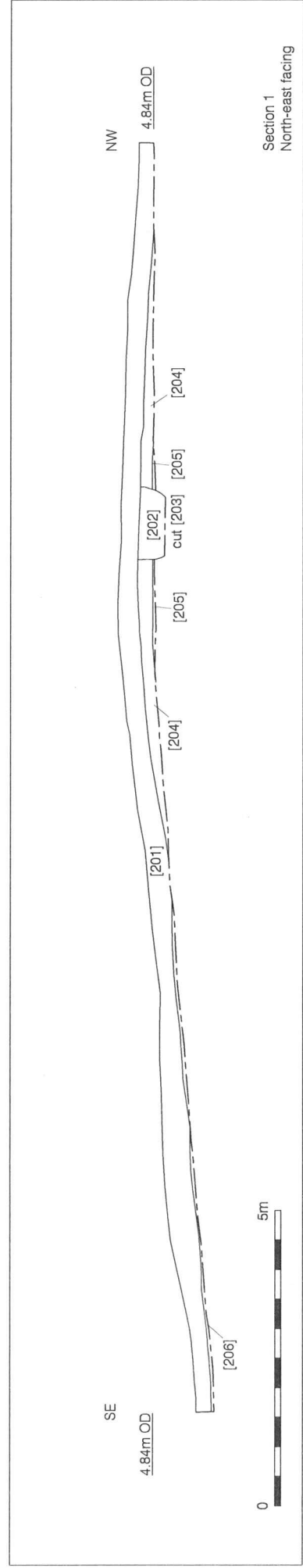
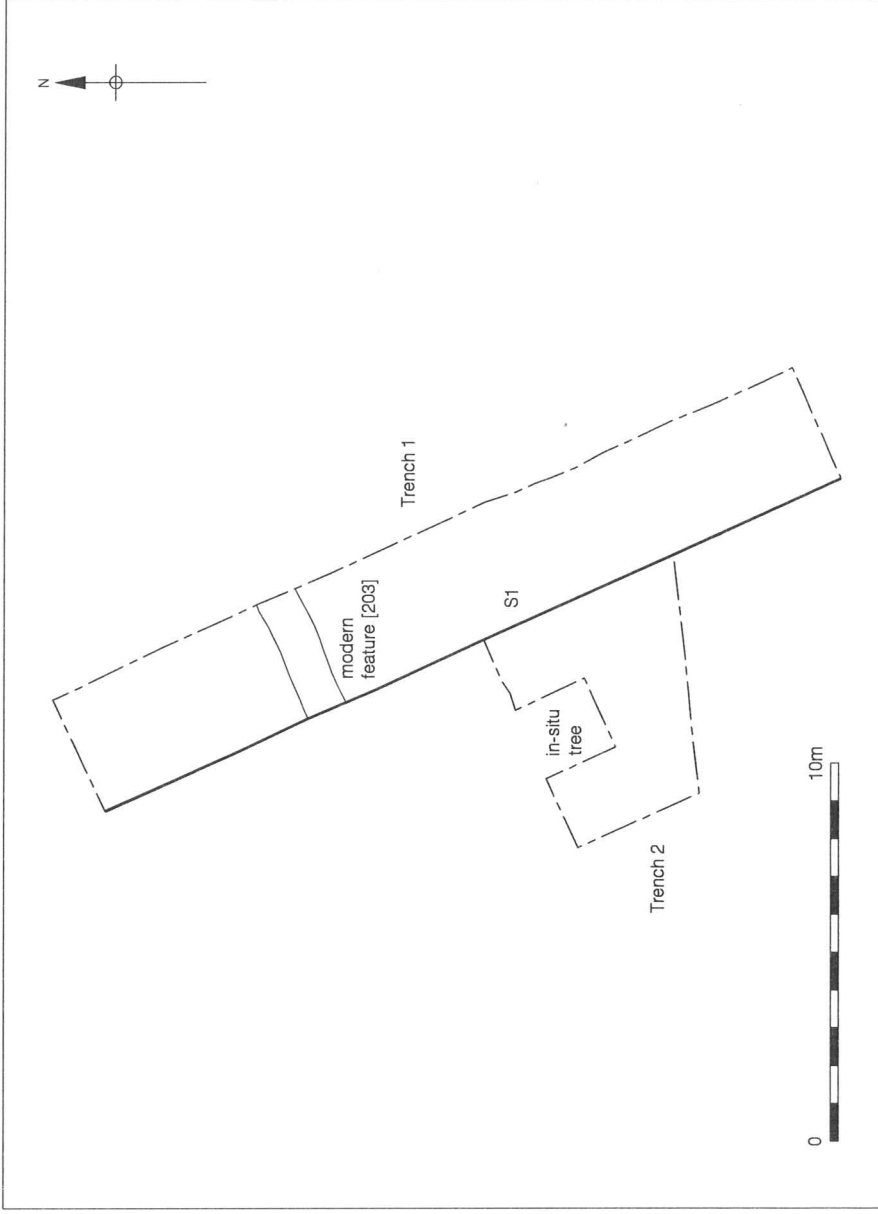


Figure 3
Plan of Trenches 1, 2 and Section 1
1:200; 1:100

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No deposits or features of significant archaeological interest were found, the sequence being solely 19th to 20th century. No comparison can be made with the results of a previous watching brief east of this area, where natural brickearth was reached.

- 6.2 This intervention did not affect archaeologically significant moat fills, so no statement can be made to support or revise previous inferences and hypotheses on the nature and age of this major feature.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology expresses thanks to John Murray of Frankham Consultancy Group for commissioning the investigation of behalf of the Board of Governors of All Saints Primary School, Fulham, who generously funded this project. Thanks are also extended to Duncan Favel and the team at Hobart Paving Company Ltd for their co-operation.
- 7.2 The author would like to thank Adrian Nash for the illustrations and Chris Mayo for his project management and editing.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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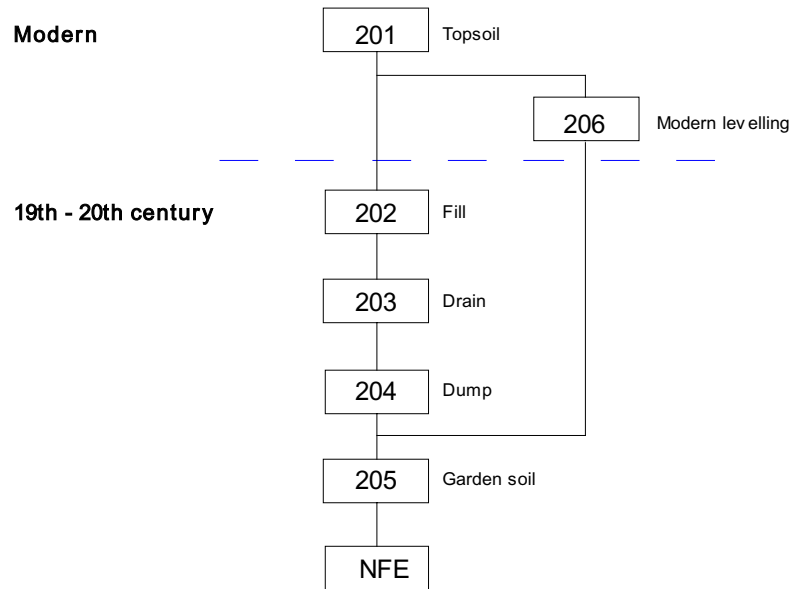
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APPENDIX 1: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No	Plan No	Section No	Type	Description
201	1 & 2	1	Layer	Topsoil
202	1	1	Fill	Fill of [203]
203	1	1	Cut	19th- 20th century drain
204	1	1	Layer	19th- 20th century dumped deposit
205	1	1	Layer	19th - 20th century garden soil
206	1	1	Layer	Modern levelling layer

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-17756

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief (Phase III) at All Saints Primary School, Bishops Avenue, London Borough of Hammersmith
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief at All Saints Primary School, Bishops Avenue, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was commissioned by Frankham Consultancy Ltd. on behalf of the Board of Governors of All Saints Primary School. The site is located within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Fulham Palace. The watching brief monitored all excavation at the site, associated with the construction of a new driveway and gate into the grounds of the school. No archaeologically significant deposits or features prior to the late 19th century were found due to the minimal impact of groundworks.
Project dates	Start: 14-08-2006 End: 15-08-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BIF02 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	MOAT Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM FULHAM All Saints Primary School, Bishops Avenue, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Postcode	SW6
Study area	0.96 Hectares
National grid reference	TQ 2415 7640 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project design originator	Jon Butler
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	William Johnston
Sponsor or funding body	Board of Governors of All Saints Primary School

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

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