

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at The National Physical Laboratories,
Teddington, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames**

Site Code: GAZ 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 1552 7041

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of a new service run at The National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.
- 1.2 The trench was located across a lawned garden to the rear of Bushy House, within the confines of the standing buildings of the National Physical Laboratory: the Maudslay building to the south, the Darwin building to the east and the Crookes building to the north.
- 1.3 The service trench (Trench 1) was excavated to a maximum depth of c1.00m below current ground level; it was c1.00m in width and c67.00m in length.
- 1.4 The watching brief revealed evidence of natural sandy silt and modern overburden. Only post-medieval archaeological deposits were encountered.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at The National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (Figure 1) from 22nd August to 29th August 2006. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Nuttals Ltd. The site was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Chris Mayo and supervised by the author.
- 2.2 The site is located within a garden to the rear of Bushy House and surrounded by various standing buildings of The National Physical Laboratory: to the west by the Maudslay building, to the north by the Crookes building and to the south by the Darwin building (Figure 2).
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 1552 7041 and the site was given the unique code GAZ 06.
- 2.4 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the study area.
- 2.5 The watching brief revealed evidence of natural sandy silt and modern overburden. Only post-medieval archaeological deposits were encountered.

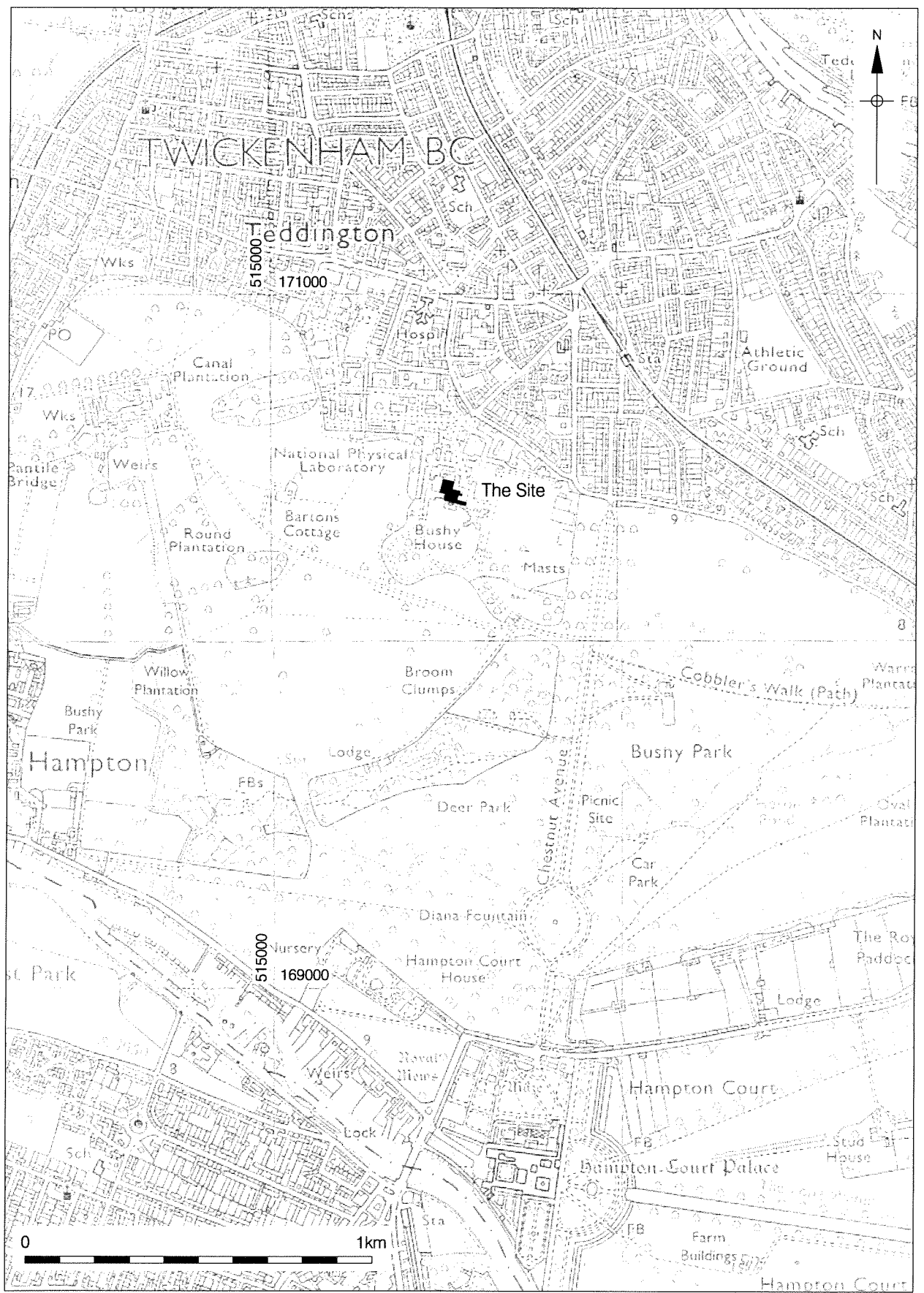
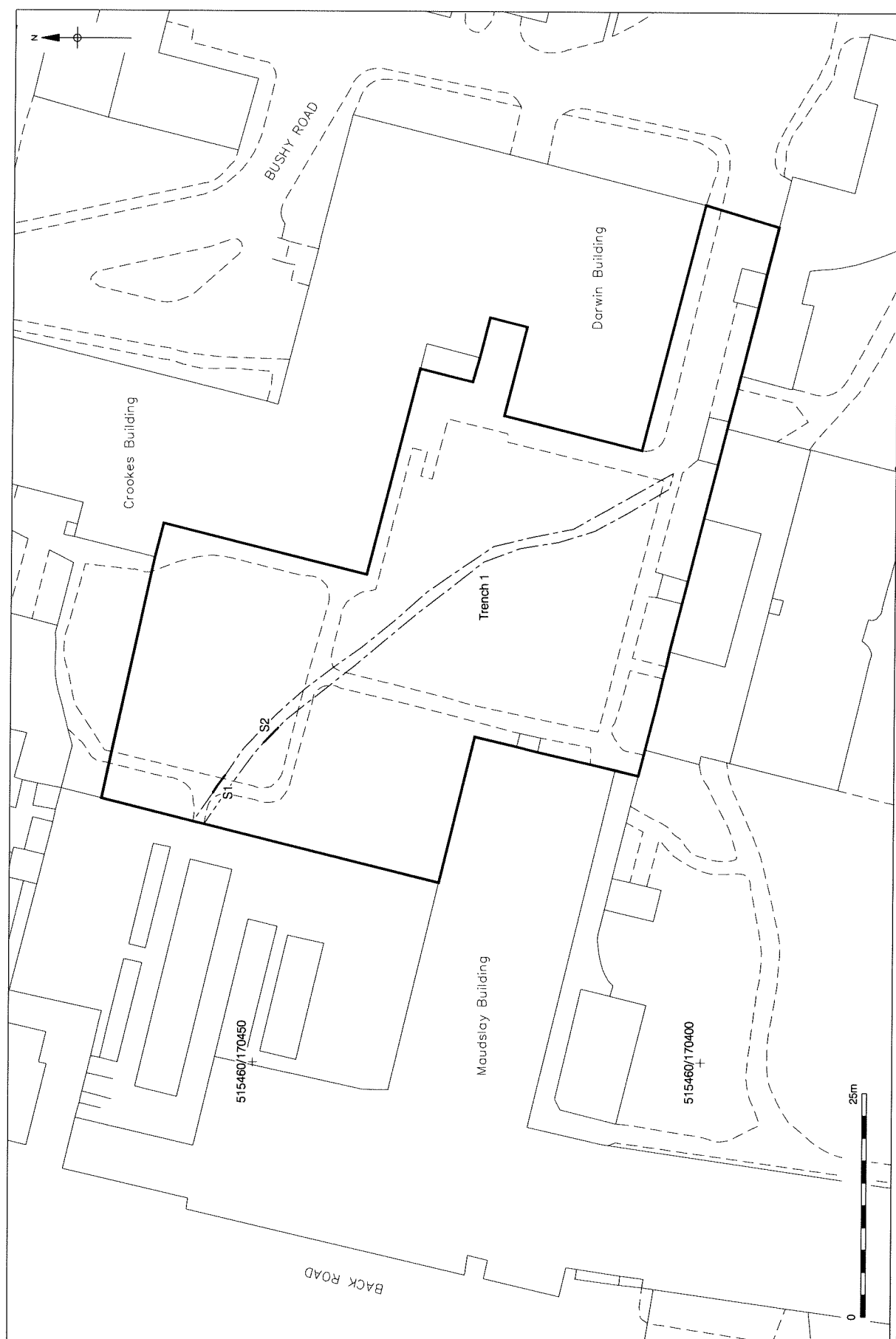


Figure 1
Site Location
1:16,000



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The site is located on Post-Diversionary Thames River Terrace Deposits, Kempton Park Gravels (British Geological Survey 1998).
- 3.2 The topography of the current land surface is generally level at c. 9.00m OD.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1. The Archaeological and Historical background of the study area have been discussed in a number of archaeological investigations within the grounds of the National Physical Laboratory, and to date this has included an archaeological desk based assessment (Hawkins 1997), an archaeological evaluation and excavation (Divers 1998) and an archaeological evaluation (Clough 2004). The results are summarised below.

4.2 PREHISTORIC

- 4.2.1 There is little archaeological evidence for the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Neolithic periods within the study area. There is, however, evidence of Bronze Age activity seen to the north and west of the site, observed during an earlier excavation (Divers 1998). There is also evidence of Bronze Age activity to the east of the site, which comprised a large burial mound that once stood in the Sandy Lane, Teddington, (TQ 1629 7037, SMR ref: 020991) and excavated in 1854 (Akerman 1854).

4.3 ROMAN

- 4.3.1 No evidence for the Iron Age or the Roman period have been found in the study area.

4.4 SAXON

- 4.4.1 A possible Saxon burial was recorded within the Bronze Age burial mound at Sandy Lane (Divers 1998), but no other Saxon activity has been noted in this area.

4.5 MEDIEVAL

- 4.5.1 During the medieval period the area was used for arable and pasture land.

4.6 POST- MEDIEVAL

- 4.6.1 In the post-medieval period the land was reworked to form Bushy Park, and a lodge was built, later replaced by Bushy House, which forms the heart of the complex of buildings that became the National Physical Laboratory. The buildings surrounding the site date to 1912.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 A single trench, Trench 1, was excavated to install ducting for new services. Its' measured c67.0m long by c1.0m wide by c1.0m deep.
- 5.2 The trench was excavated by a 1.5 tonne mechanical mini-digger with a flat bladed ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision, to the project depth of 1.00m below current ground level (c. 9.00m OD).
- 5.3 The trench was located with the aid of a Total Station operated by the contractor, who also provided levels. A temporary benchmark was established on a concrete path, with a value of 9.06m OD. The trench was recorded in plan and section using pro-forma sheets.

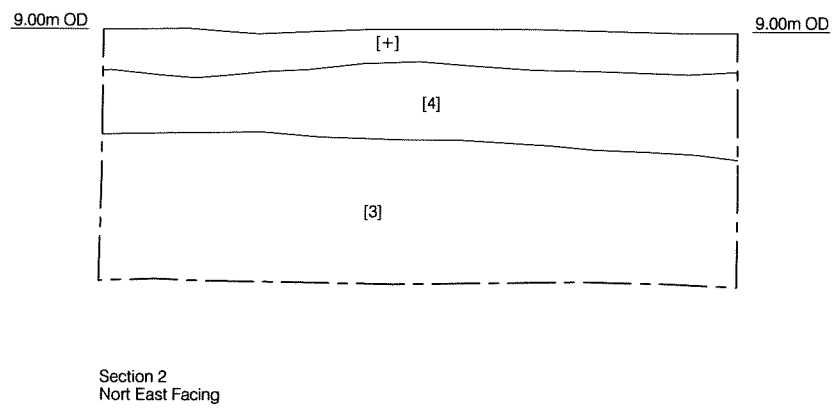
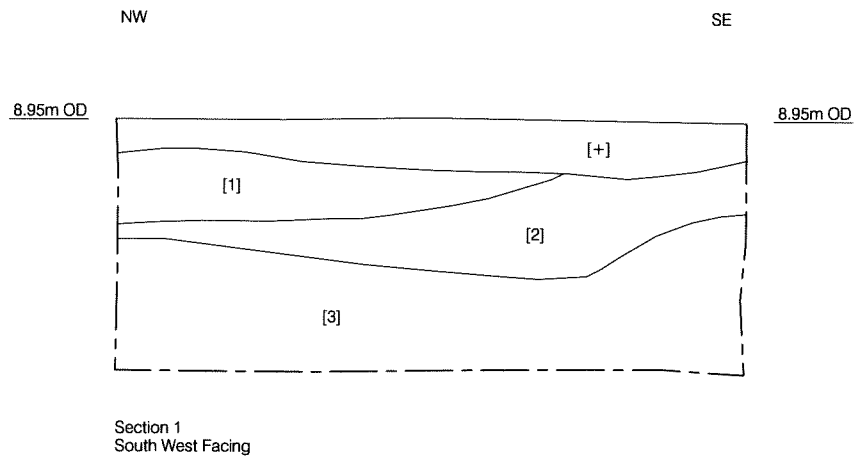
6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 PHASE 1: NATURAL

- 6.1.1 The earliest deposit observed throughout Trench 1 was a natural sandy silt [3], located between 7.95m OD and 8.00m OD.

6.2 PHASE 2: 19TH – 20TH CENTURY ACTIVITY

- 6.2.1 Overlying the sandy silt was a layer of silty sand garden soil [2] and [4]. This deposit was between 0.20m and 0.40m in thickness and the top of the deposit was located between 8.73m OD and 8.84m OD. Pottery finds recovered from this deposit give a spot date of 1835-1900, and a fragment of a glass wine bottle base gives a date between the late 18th and 19th centuries.
- 6.2.2 Overlying the layer of silty sand at the northwest end of Trench 1 was a layer of gravel [1]. At between c. 0.05m to 0.30m in thickness, the top of this deposit was located at 8.81m OD and is presumed to represent an earlier garden path. Pottery fragments recovered from this deposit give a spot date of 1580-1900.
- 6.2.3 Sealing the gravel was a layer of topsoil covered by turf, which was c. 0.20m thick. The top of the trench was located at between 8.95m OD and 9.00m OD.



0 1m

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The watching brief was intended to identify and record archaeological material exposed by the excavation of a service trench at the National Physical Laboratories, Teddington, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.
- 7.2 Only natural and post-medieval deposits were encountered during the watching brief.
- 7.3 The remains of a post-medieval gravel garden path were observed, as well as a layer of late 19th century garden soil.
- 7.4 In conclusion, the lack of any deposits or finds earlier than post-medieval in date would indicate a low potential for earlier archaeological remains at this particular location of the National Physical Laboratories, Teddington.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning this report on behalf of Nuttals Ltd.
- 7.2 The author would like to thank the contractors for much help and assistance on site, and would also like to thank Dave Harris for the illustrations and Chris Mayo for project management and editing.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Hawkins, D. 1997. An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of land at the National Physical Laboratories, Teddington. CgMS unpublished Report

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Type	Description
1	Layer	Post-Medieval gravel path
2	Layer	Post-Medieval garden soil
3	Layer	Natural Sandy Silt
4	Layer	Same as [2]

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-17800

Project details

Project name	National Physical Laboratories, Teddington
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief on a service trench in the gardens of the N.P.L. Teddington
Project dates	Start: 22-08-2006 End: 29-08-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GAZ 09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES TEDDINGTON AND HAMPTON National Physical Laboratories, Teddington
Study area	67.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 1552 7041 Point
Height OD	Min: 7.95m Max: 9.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Stuart Watson
Sponsor or funding body	Nuttalls Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local museum
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Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

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