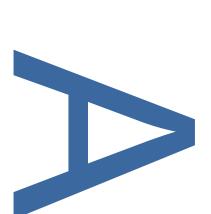
WIMBLEDON GREYHOUND STADIUM, PLOUGH LANE, LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON SW17 0BL: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

SITE CODE: POG17

OCTOBER 2017









DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

WIMBLEDON GREYHOUND STADIUM

Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY	Y: LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON
SITE CODE:	POG17
CENTRAL NGR:	TQ 26155 71817
COMMISSIONING CLIENT:	CgMs Consulting
GLHER SEARCH NUMBER:	13561
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October 2017

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation that was undertaken at Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium, Plough Lane, London Borough of Merton SW17 0BL (TQ 26155 71817, Figure 1) between 19th September and 2nd October 2017.
- 1.2 The aims of the project were to determine the natural topography, the nature, date and survival of any archaeological periods within the confines of the site and to establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 1.3 The evaluation demonstrated that the underlying solid geology consisted of dark grey clay that was seen within Trench 2 at a height of 5.92m OD. This was overlain by superficial geology of sandy gravels seen across the site at heights between 6.40m and 6.97m OD.
- 1.4 Within the north-eastern part of the site a series of late post-medieval pits and post holes were seen relating to the back gardens of houses fronting onto Summertown. Within the western and central parts of the site late post-medieval agricultural ditches were recorded. No other archaeological features were identified on the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation at Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium, Plough Lane, London Borough of Merton SW17 0BL (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology between 19th September and 2nd October 2017.
- 2.2 The site covered an area of approximately 4 hectares, and was centred on National Grid Reference TQ 26155 71817 (Figure 2). The site was generally flat, comprising mostly of a tarmac car park at a height of between 8m and 9m OD, with the Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium located on the south-west of the site.
- 2.3 The site was located within a Tier 3 archaeological priority area as defined in the Borough's Local Plan, relating to the proximity of the River Wandle and potential for prehistoric archaeological deposits.
- 2.4 As outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017), the objectives of the evaluation were to determine the natural topography of the site, the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site and the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 2.5 The site was supervised by Stacey Amanda Harris of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The site was project managed by Helen Hawkins, also of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Mark Stevenson of Historic England monitored proceedings on behalf of the London Borough of Merton.
- 2.6 Following the completion of the project the site archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under the unique code POG17.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Local Guidance: Archaeology in the London Borough of Merton:

Core Planning Strategy

Policy CS 14

The Historic Environment

22.7 The industrial heritage of the Wandle Valley is a particularly important part of the history of the borough and an important element of Merton's identity. This has been recognised by the designation of the Wandle Valley Conservation Area. New development in this area should play a positive role in relation to the Wandle Valley Regional Park. There is the opportunity for future development including the restructuring of Colliers Wood town centre to be heritage-led in order to strengthen the character and local distinctiveness of the area consistent with the PPS5 and the London Plan. This is expanded further in Chapter 11 'Colliers Wood and South Wimbledon Sub-Area - Policy 1'.

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

- The Council considers it is important to prevent potentially valuable archaeological 4.58 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.
- 3.2 The site had an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission, requiring a programme of archaeological investigation to be carried out on the site in advance of redevelopment.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The following geological and topographical background is taken from the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017).
- 4.1.1 A geotechnical investigation had been previously carried out for the site. The boreholes generally confirmed the anticipated ground conditions, comprising up to 1.5m of Made Ground, overlaying superficial alluvium/terrace gravels to depths ranging between 1.2m and 4.8m. This variation was most likely due to the presence of an historical watercourse (the River Wandle), now culverted, across the eastern half of the site. This watercourse is shown on the historic maps, and previously formed the borough boundary. The bedrock geology comprises the London Clay Formation, Lambeth Group and Thanet Sand at depth. Shallow groundwater is encountered within the superficial deposits, with sub-artesian water strikes encountered in the bedrock geology.
- 4.1.2 The site was generally flat, comprising mostly of a tarmac car park, with the Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium located on the southwest of the site. The topographic survey for the site indicated that it lay between 8m and 9m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- **5.1** The following archaeological and historical background is summarised from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017).
- 5.2 Prehistoric
- 5.2.1 There is some evidence of prehistoric activity within the greater Wimbledon area. Caesar's Camp, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is believed to have been constructed in *c*. 700BC, on what is now Wimbledon Common approximately 3km to the west of the subject site.
- 5.2.2 Little evidence from the prehistoric period is recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site. The sole piece of prehistoric evidence is an early Iron Age urn attributed to a nearby findspot. It is uncertain whether the urn is votive or funerary in nature.
- 5.3 Roman
- 5.3.1 The route of the Roman road Stane Street which ran between London and Chichester is known to have followed a similar line to the modern A24.
- 5.3.2 Morden Park, approximately 3.7km to the southwest, has yielded evidence of Roman date.
- 5.3.3 However, little evidence from the Roman period has been recorded within the study area. An archaeological evaluation undertaken at 80 Plough Lane yielded two Roman pottery sherds within an alluvial layer, and also a modern pit containing a residual Roman pottery sherd and five pieces of residual Roman ceramic building material. No further remains of Roman date are recorded in the vicinity of the study site.
- 5.4 Saxon and Medieval
- 5.4.1 Whilst there has been slight evidence of Norman and Saxon presence off the High Street and on Wimbledon Common, no buildings dated to this period have been uncovered. However, there are indications that a settlement existed by the end of the Saxon period with references being made in three documents in the 10th century.
- 5.4.2 The earliest name of '*Wunemannedun*' has been suggested to have its origins as the place on its hill or '*dun*' founded by a Saxon leader Wynnmann. From at least the 8th century the lord of the manor is recorded as being the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- 5.4.3 Whilst there is minor evidence of Saxon activity to the west, no archaeological evidence dating to the Saxon period is recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site. An archaeological evaluation at the One O'Clock Centre in Siward Road, c.450m north of the site in 2001 recorded a late Saxon alluvial sequence of gravel and clays underlying Post Medieval former topsoils and dump deposits.
- 5.4.4 In the Domesday Book of 1086 the area of Wimbledon is entered as a manor of Mortlake, which was more important at the time. However by the 1280s Wimbledon is recorded as having accounts as separate to those of Mortlake.
- 5.4.5 No conclusive evidence of a permanent village existed in Wimbledon prior to the 13th century. The first list of Wimbledon's inhabitants is in the Manor Court records of 1332, which records the names of 31 heads of families required to pay tax for Edward III's Scottish war.
- 5.4.6 No archaeological evidence dating to the medieval period is recorded within the vicinity of the study site.
- 5.5 Post-Medieval
- 5.5.1 The name of Wimbledon appears in various forms until the first appearance of the modern version in the 1550s, however it took approximately 70 more years until it became the widely accepted version.
- 5.5.2 In 1500 the Old Rectory was built by the Archbishop of Canterbury. However, by 1536 there had been a 50-year decline in the power of the Manor Court, and the Manor and Rectory were taken from the Archbishop of Canterbury by Henry VIII.
- 5.5.3 In 1550 Sir William Cecil had leased the Rectory. 1588 saw Sir William Cecil's son Thomas build the first Manor House, where in the 1590s he entertained Elizabeth I in the New Park, and in the 1610s Thomas helped to organise the enclosure of a large field below the Ridgway.

- 5.5.4 During this period the Manor Court's power over law and order, roads, and the poor was transferred to the Parish Vestry by Acts of Parliament. From 1642 the power of the manor decreased even further with an increase in the private ownership of lands, and the increased ignoring of rules over the use of the Common. In 1744 Wimbledon Manor House was inherited by the Spencers. The extent to which the power of the Manor had declined is seen in the last attempt in 1860 by the 5th Earl Spencer to enforce the rules of the Common which failed, and as such it is seen that the title had no remaining practical value.
- 5.5.5 1838 saw the opening of a railway line through Wimbledon, almost 500m to the south and almost 800m to the west of the site. This was accompanied by an expansion of the population.
- 5.5.6 In 1905 Wimbledon became a Borough of London. In 1965 Wimbledon was incorporated into the London Borough of Merton, which it remains today.
- 5.5.7 The site where the present Copper Mill Lane ends marks the location of the mill from which the lane gains its name. In 1649 an iron plate mill was founded by Messrs Henckell on the site. By c. 1720 the English Copper Company had taken over the site and converted it to a copper mill, with records indicating that the English Copper Company also build a house on Copper Mill Lane for its workers. The main process undertaken at the mill was the smelting, casting, and rolling of copper, though all forms of copper working were undertaken including the melting of old copper coins from the Royal Mint. In 1890 the site passed to Chuter & Sons Ltd who converted it to a leather works that remained open until 1960.
- 5.5.8 Plough Lane dates to the 1840s, when it was laid out by the Copper Company to divert the road to Tooting, which until then had been running through their works to the north. Until *c*. 1900 the road was lined in meadows, with the northwestern swampland being used as a dump until it was cleared just prior to World War II to become the grounds of the Wimbledon Football Club.
- 5.5.9 The stadium is first shown on the map dated 1933 (build date 1928). Post World War II, a mound is shown in the north-west corner of the site with a number of separate structures along the western boundary. Two parts of the stadium are labelled "Ruin", which would likely indicate bomb damage. A number of further structures (approximately 10) are present in the south-eastern area of the site to the rear of the residential gardens and west of the stream.
- 5.5.10 By 1959 the residential properties at the northern end of Summerstown have been redeveloped, presumably to make additional room for stadium parking. By 1967 the structures along the north-western boundary are no longer present and the residential properties at the southern end of Summerstown have been demolished. The land uses off Copper Mill Lane include a Laundry, Machine Tools Works, Leather Works and Plant Hire.
- 5.5.11 The map dated 1959 shows two structures along the Southern boundary, one of these is latterly labelled "Garage" (from 1967) and both are demolished at some point during the period 1977-1990. Also during this period, the structures in the south-eastern area are cleared leaving only the two present today on the boundary. The site has remained largely unchanged for the past 50 years.
- 5.6 Previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site
- 5.6.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the site of Wimbledon Football Club. Six machine-dug, trial pits were monitored. Natural London Clay was observed in all but one of the pits, but no archaeological finds or features were uncovered and the natural deposits had been truncated and the original soil horizons removed. Fairly deep deposits of modern made ground were observed in four of the pits, measuring between around 0.50 m to 3.00 m.
- 5.6.2 A single evaluation trench undertaken in 2006 at the site of the Wimbledon Stadium Business Park, Riverside Road, uncovered alluvial deposits underlying topsoil and modern made ground. This alluvium is believed to be related to the watercress beds seen on the early Ordnance Survey Maps. The alluvium overlay earlier topsoil, which overlay earlier alluvial clay resultant from the flooding of the River Wandle, with coarse sandy fluvial gravels at the base of the sequence. It was concluded that the site had been waterlogged for most of its history.
- 5.6.3 The 2002 evaluation carried out at 80 Plough Lane produced a 19th century pottery sherd, a clay tobacco pipe stem, and a fragment of ceramic building material dated to 1630-1900 within the top of the alluvium in one trench, whilst another trench revealed parallel horticultural slots with finds dated to *c*. 1800-1950. It was concluded that the alluvium of the area continued to

form the ground surface in the 19th century or later, with modern dumped deposits lain to prepare the site for construction in the 1970s.

5.6.4 A watching brief undertaken in 1995 at 540-546 Garratt Lane revealed post-medieval garden soil partly overlying natural sands and gravels

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017), using guidelines issued by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), English Heritage (EH, now Historic England) the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and PCA's Fieldwork Operations Manual (GLAAS 2015; EH 2008, 2009; IFA 2014; Taylor 2009).
- 6.2 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of twelve trenches (Figure 2). The intention was for these trenches to each measure 25m in length, as was the case with Trenches 8 and 9. However, due to on site restrictions including buried services, in situ stadium features and the current site welfare, Trenches 2, 4 and 10 were shortened and Trench 5 was abandoned after it was established that the live electricity for the pump house ran through the area, which was sealed by several layers of concrete under the tarmac. To compensate for this, Trenches 1, 3, 6, 7,11 and 12 were lengthened. Actual trench dimensions are given in Table 1 below.

Trench	Length (m)	Max. Width (m)	Max. Depth BGL (m)	Max. Depth m OD
1	30.00	1.85	1.50	6.90
2	24.15	1.85	2.50	5.88
3	25.70	1.80	2.40	6.70
4	20.00	2.00	1.68	7.35
5	5.20	1.80	abandoned	abandoned
6	33.80	2.00	1.75	7.32
7	35.00	2.00	1.95	6.70
8	25.00	2.00	2.50	6.28
9	25.00	2.00	1.60	7.10
10	23.50	2.10	2.24	6.36
11	30.00	2.00	2.35	6.29
12	26.50	2.05	1.15	7.58

Table 1: Trench dimensions and depths

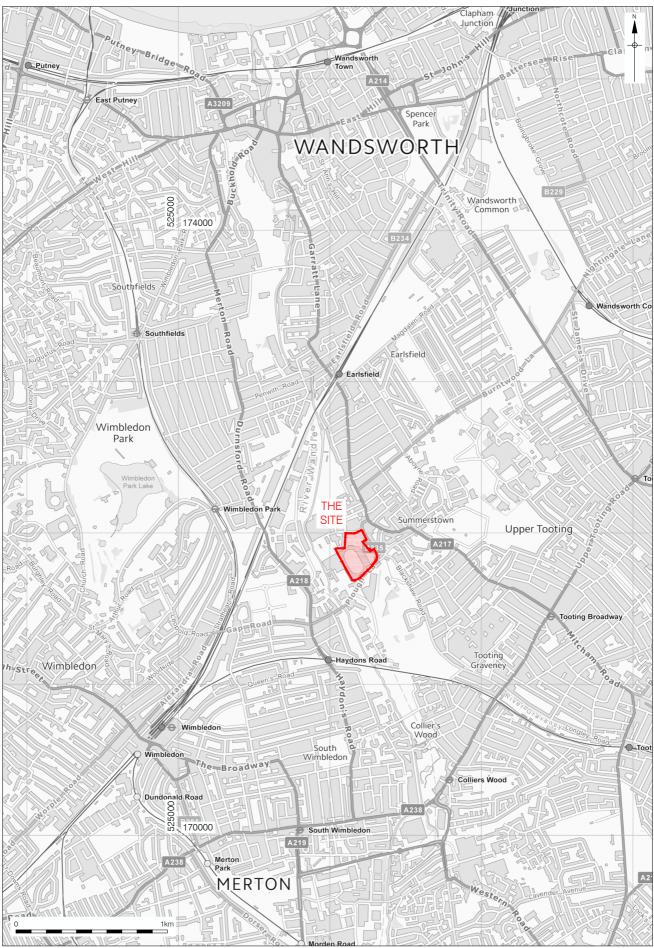
- 6.3 The trenches were excavated using a 13-ton 360 mechanical excavator.Tarmac and concrete were removed with the use of a breaker. Following this the machine was fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket, and excavation continued in 100mm spits until the top of the archaeological deposits, natural geology or a depth of 1.20m BGL were reached. Excavation of horizontal stratigraphy or cut archaeological features then continued by hand. Prior to backfilling the trenches were sondaged where possible to ascertain the natural stratigraphy.
- 6.4 Within a number of trenches groundwater was seen at a height of around 8m OD (ie less than 0.50m BGL), for this reason hand excavation was minimised within some trenches. Sondages were also affected by groundwater, with excavation having to cease on some trenches when they became inundated with water, making the trench edges unstable.
- 6.5 Trenches were located by PCA's surveyor prior to excavation, using GPS and were tied into the Ordnance Survey Grid.
- 6.6 Levels were obtained from Temporary Bench Marks established by PCA's surveyor through the use of a Leica GPS. Levels on archaeologically relevant structures and strata were taken from this. The heights and locations of the TBMs can be found in the site archive.
- 6.7 All archaeological interventions were hand cleaned before being hand-planned at a scale of 1:20, with sections being drawn at 1:10. The deposits that they contained were recorded on pro forma context sheets, bulk samples of alluvial layers were taken as advised by the sites consultant and a full digital photographic record was compiled.
- 6.8 The completed site archive, comprising written and photographic records, will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC) under the site code POG17.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 7.1 Phase 1: Natural
- 7.1.1 Natural dark grey clay (London Clay) was seen within Trench 2 [26] at a height of 5.92m OD. This deposit was not seen elsewhere on the site due to groundwater and safety concerns over trench depth.
- 7.1.2 Overlying the natural clay within Trench 2 was a 1.76m thick layer of mid greyish yellow gravel [25] (Plate 1). This gravel layer was also seen in Trench 1 [24], Trench 7 [87] and Trench 11 [83], at a height of between 6.40m and 6.97m OD.
- 7.1.3 Within Trenches 8 and 10 the earliest deposits were layers of natural yellow grey sand [42] (Plate 3) and [60] (Plate 2). These layers were seen at a height of 6.47m and 6.58m OD. Within Trench 10 this layer was overlain by a 0.26m thick layer of light blue clay sand [59].
- 7.1.4 Across the entire site, alluvial layers were seen. Where earlier natural deposits had been seen, they were overlain by the alluvium layers. The earliest of these alluvial layers was seen within Trench 11 [69], a yellowish grey alluvium seen at a height of 7.14m OD. This was overlain by layer [82], a 0.26m thick layer of dark grey brown alluvium.
- 7.1.5 Across most of the site was a layer of mid grey yellow silty clay alluvium [22], [23], [41], [52], [63], [68], [72], [79] (Plate 3) and [81], seen between 7.24m and 8.07m OD. This layer was not seen within Trenches 9 and 10, at the northern extent of the site.
- 7.1.6 Within Trench 3 the alluvial layer [68] was cut by a 2.60m wide east-west channel [67] (Plate 4) from a height of 7.24m OD. This channel was filled by a firm dark brownish grey silty clay [66]. This feature was not fully excavated and continued below the limit of excavation (LOE) below a depth of 6.70m OD.
- 7.1.7 The channel was sealed by a 0.74m thick layer of grey blue alluvium [95]. This layer was also seen in Trenches 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10 ([19], [27], [78], [16] (Plate 3), [40] and [55] (Plate 2) respectively) at heights between 7.88m and 8.36m OD.
- 7.2 Phase 2: Late Post Medieval
- 7.2.1 Across the northern part of the site a number of the trenches were found to contain ditches. In Trench 6 the ditches were numbered [86]/[84], in Trench 9 they were [39]/[38] (Plate 5), in Trench 10 the ditches were [54]/[53] and in Trench 12 they were [64/ [65] (see Figures 7, 10, 11 and 12). These ditches most likely relate to the agricultural use of the land in the later post-medieval period. This area is shown on historical maps to contain drainage ditches from the mid-1800s until the construction of the stadium in 1928, and is labelled on several maps as a Nursery. Pottery retrieved from fill [38] was spot dated to 1830-1900, and pottery from fill [53] was spot dated 1740-1830. The fills probably relate to the backfilling of the ditches during the early 1900s when the Stadium was first constructed.
- 7.2.2 Within Trench 4 another ditch was seen. Ditch [54] (Plate 6) was seen at a height of 8.05m OD and continuing beyond the LOE at a height of 7.38m OD. This feature most likely relates to the urbanisation of land to the west of Summerstown, supported by the spot date of 1740-1830 based on pottery recovered from fill [53] of this feature.
- 7.2.3 Trench 8 revealed a series of post-medieval features, all of which would have been located within the rear gardens of properties facing onto Summerstown, and which were cut into alluvial layer [16]. These features consisted of three rectangular pits [7], [11] and [13], a circular pit [9] and two post holes [4] and [21]. Rectangular pits [7] and [13] both contained highly organic sandy clay fills [6] and [12] respectively. The other rectangular pit [11] contained a dark clay silt fill [10], and circular pit [9] was filled with a mid brown grey clay silt [8]. All of the pits contained a mixture of artefactual remains with pottery recovered from fill [6] giving a spot date of 1840-1845. Post hole [21] was just 0.15m in diameter and 0.05m in depth, filled with a soft dark grey brown silty clay, whilst post hole [4] contained fills [17] and [3], the earlier of which, fill [3], had a pottery spot date of 1835-1900 and what appears to be a post pipe [2] containing a dark grey brown silty clay [2].
- 7.2.4 Trench 9 had, in addition to the ditch mentioned earlier, two post holes [61] and [62] (Plate 7) towards its eastern extent which were most likely related to the use of gardens to the rear of properties fronting onto Summerstown. These two post holes contained dark grey brown silt

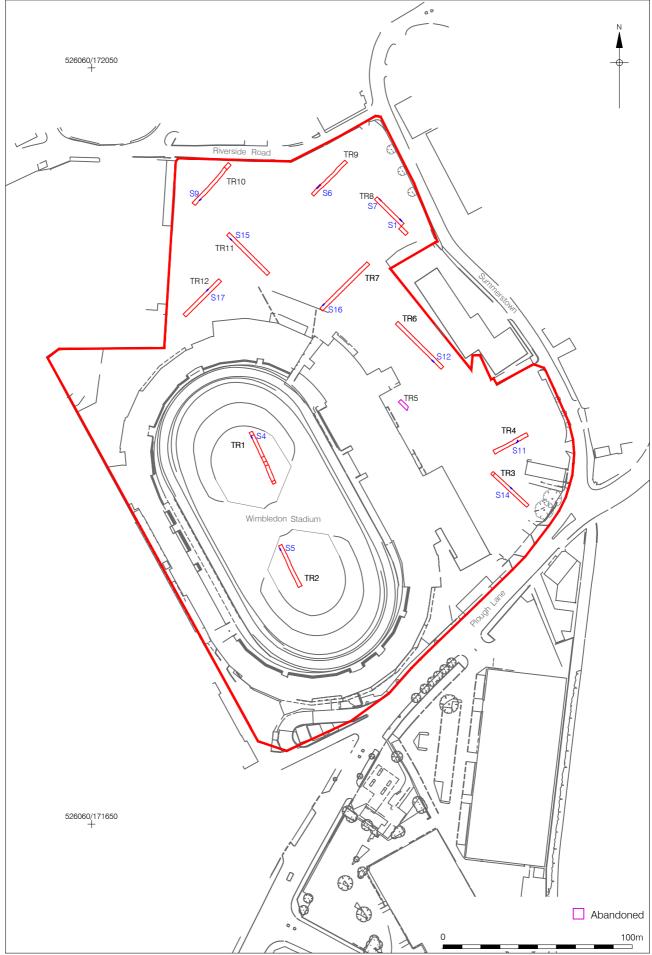
with frequent pieces of decayed wood suggesting that the posts had not been removed but allowed to decay in situ. Towards the centre of the trench the eastern edge of the now culverted watercourse [47] was seen. This linear feature contained two fills, the lower of which was a 0.27m thick grey clay [46] containing glass, CBM and pottery, for which a spot date of late 1850-1910 was obtained. This fill was overlain by a grey yellow clay [45]. Along the eastern edge of this feature four post holes were seen, cuts [31], [33], [35] and [37]. These all contained a dark brownish grey clay silt and most likely were placed to demarcate the edge of the watercourse at the bottom of the residential gardens.

- 7.3 Phase 3: Modern
- 7.3.1 Within Trench 9 the modern culverted watercourse [44] (Plate 8) was seen to cut through the post medieval backfill of the watercourse [47]. The modern construction cut [44] contained the concrete culvert and had been backfilled with a black silty clay [43] containing frequent glass, bone, CBM, CTP and pottery which was spot dated to the mid to late 19th centuries, although the culvert was clearly constructed at a later date than that suggested by the finds. Two posts [49] and [50] were seen just outside of the western edge of the construction cut. Both posts [28] and [29] were still in situ and most likely formed edge support during the construction of the culvert.
- 7.3.2 Each trench contained a layer of modern material, these layers were presumably a part of the ground preparation prior to the construction of the stadium and later the car park, and contained a large quantity of building material.



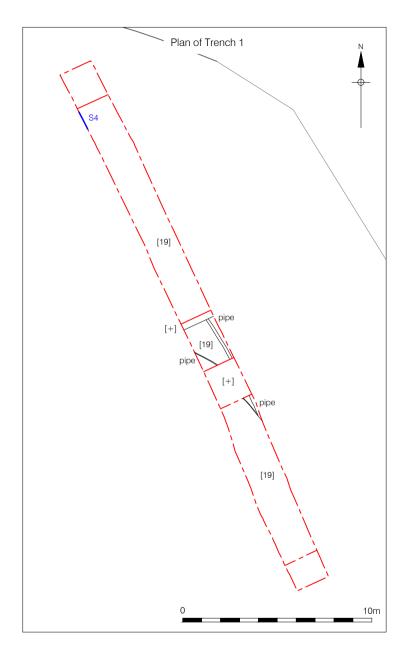
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Figure 1 Site Location 1:25,000 at A4



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Figure 2 Trench Location 1:2,000 at A4



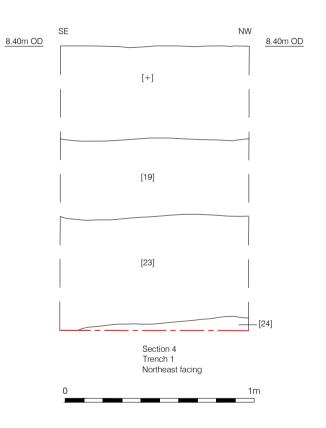
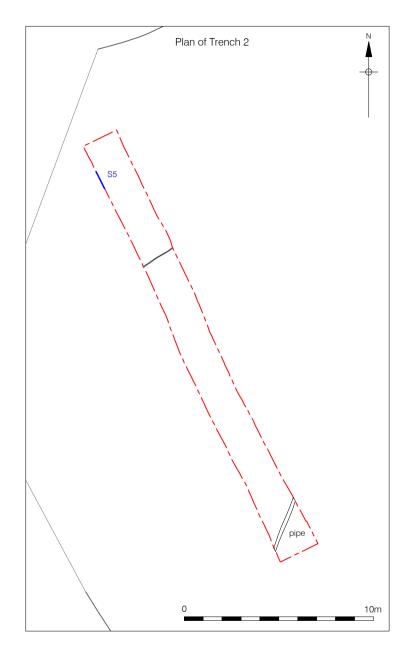
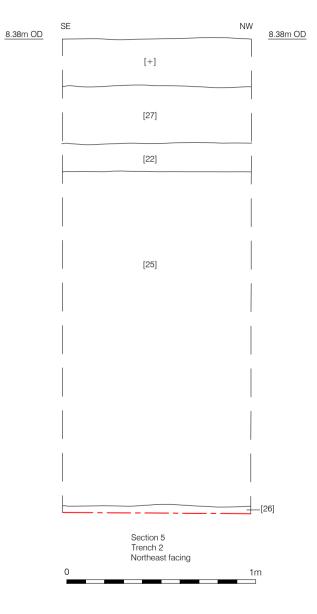


Figure 3 Trench 1: plan and section Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4

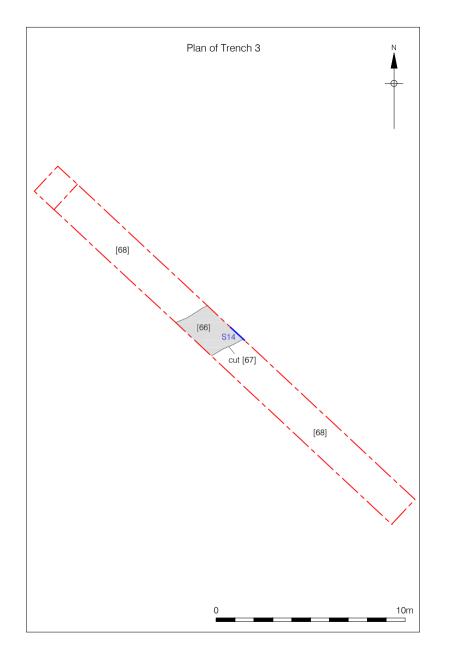
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Figure 4 Trench 2: plan and section Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4



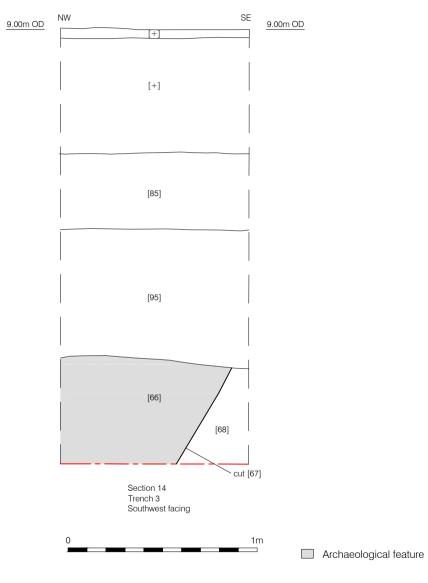
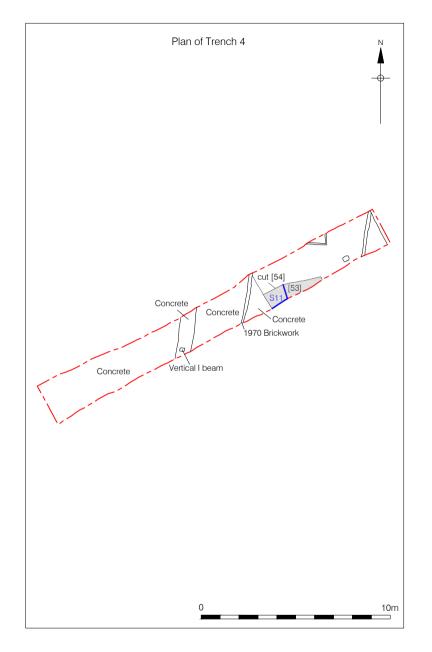
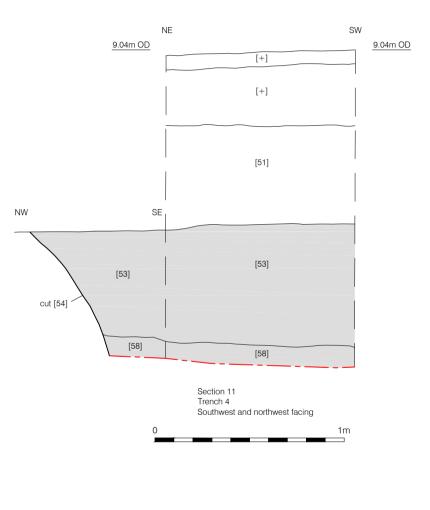


Figure 5 Trench 3: plan and section Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4

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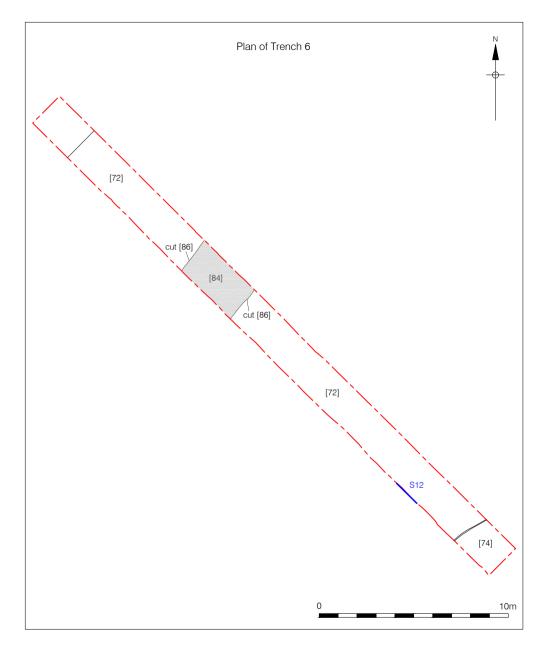




Archaeological feature

Figure 6 Trench 4: plan and section Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4

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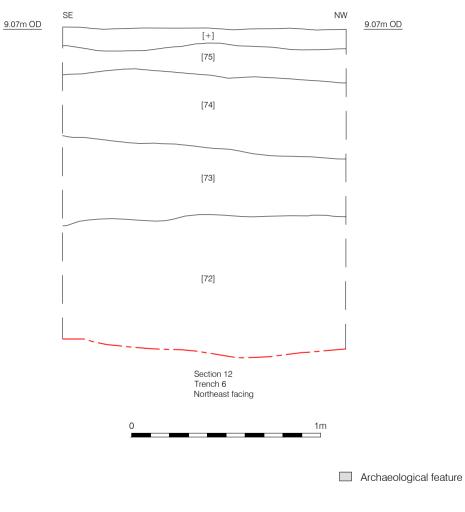
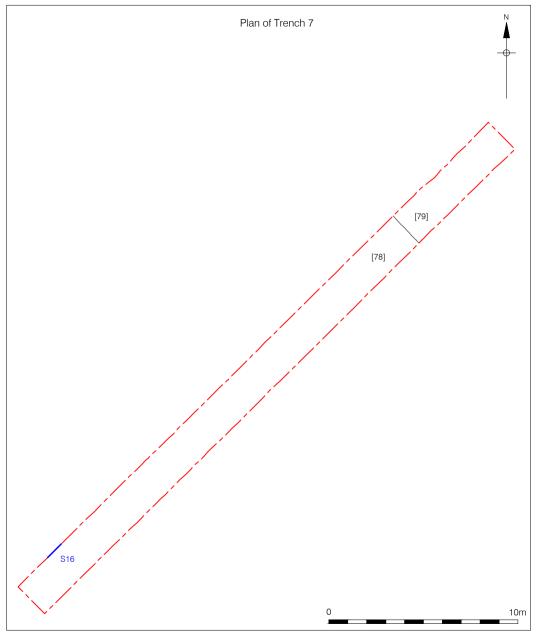


Figure 7 Trench 6: plan and section Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4

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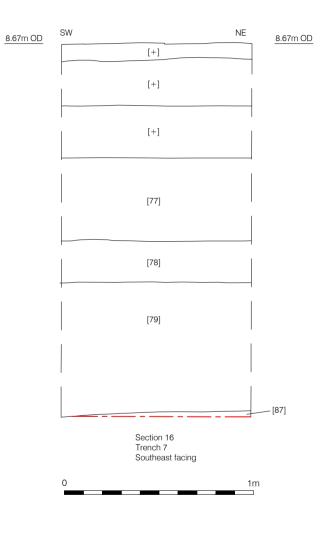
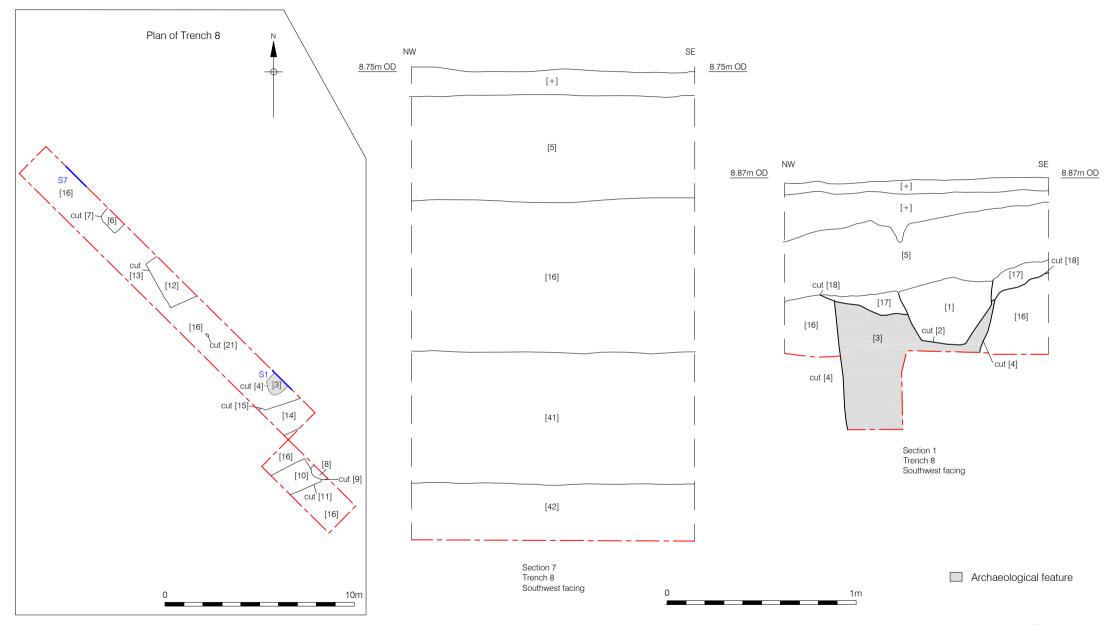
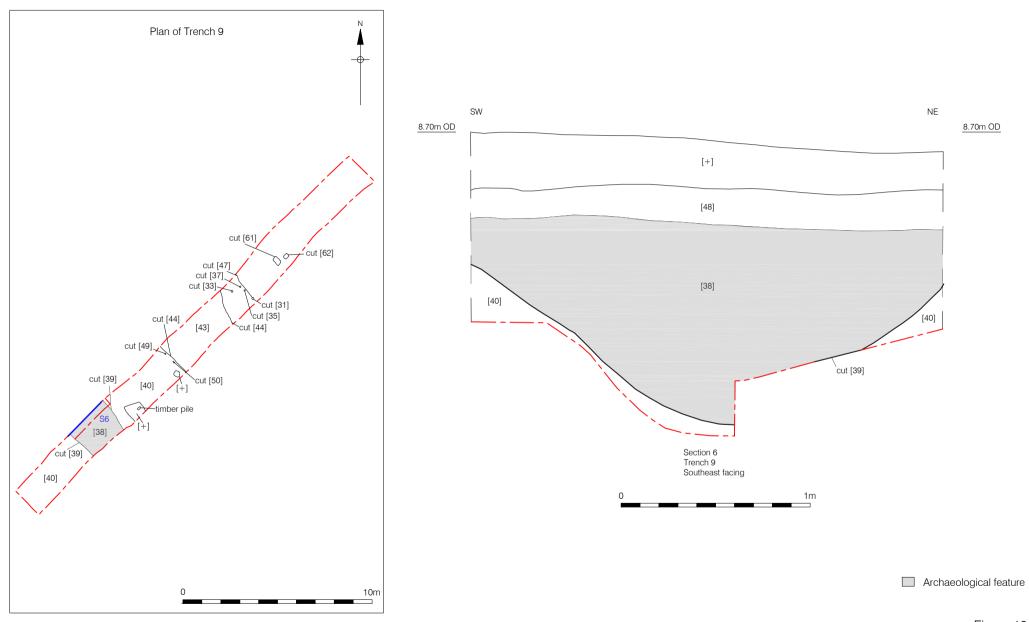


Figure 8 Trench 7: plan and section Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4

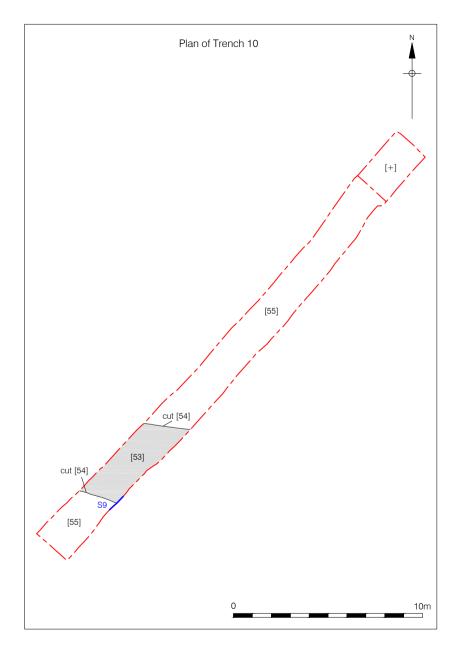
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© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017 18/10/17 TC Figure 9 Trench 8: plan and sections Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017 18/10/17 TC Figure 10 Trench 9: plan and section Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4



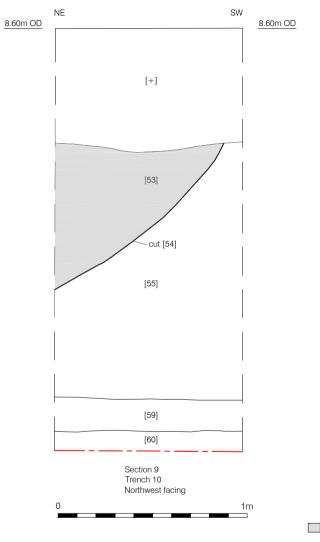
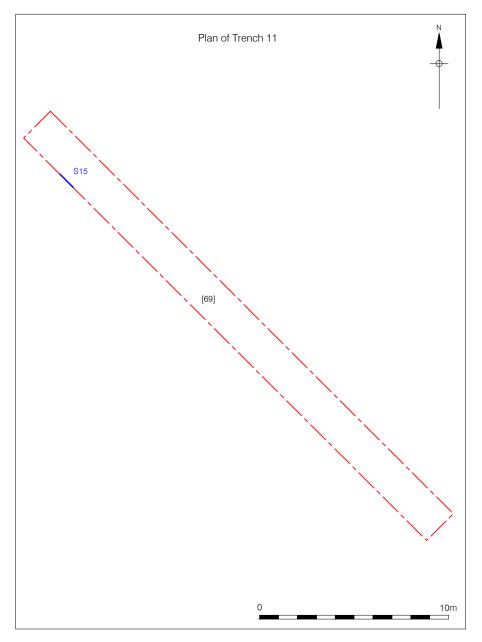




Figure 11 Trench 10: plan and section Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4

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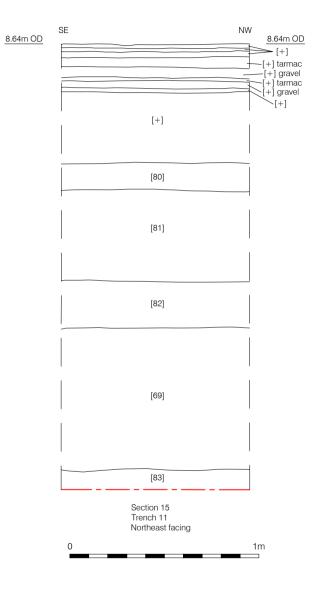
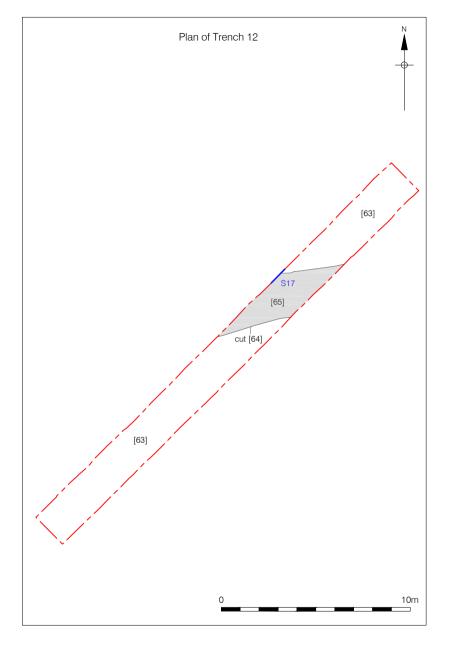
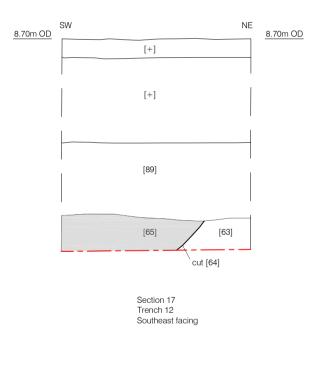


Figure 12 Trench 11: plan and section Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4

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Archaeological feature

Figure 13 Trench 12: plan and section Plan at 1:200, section 1:20 at A4

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Plate 1: Trench 2, looking north, alluvium layers [27] and [22] over gravels [25]



Plate 2: Trench 10, looking southeast, layers [55], [59] and [60] (1m scale)



Plate 3: Trench 8, looking south-west, made ground layer [5] over alluvium layers [16] and [41] over natural sand [42] (1m scale)



Plate 4: Trench 3, looking south, on the left, channel [66] / [67] can be seen cutting alluvial layer [68] (1m scale)



Plate 5: Trench 9, looking north-west, post-medieval ditch [38] [39] (1m scale)



Plate 6: Trench 4, looking south, east -west feature [53] [54] cutting alluvial layer [52] (1m scale)



Plate 7: Trench 9, looking southeast, post holes [56]/[61] and [57]/[62] (1m scale)



Plate 8: Trench 9, looking southwest, the culvert for the River Wandle [43]/[44] with post holes [49] and [50]

8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The results of this evaluation have enabled the research questions that were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017) to be addressed:
 - To determine the natural topography of the site, and the height at which it survives.
- 8.1.1 The natural topography of the site had been considerably affected by the post-medieval and modern development of the site. There is evidence that the ground was levelled, and a layer of mixed material including demolition deposits laid over the remaining alluvial layers which survive to a height of between 7.88m and 8.36m OD.
- 8.1.2 A channel was seen to survive sealed by an alluvial layer to the southeast of the site. No dating was seen during the excavation of this feature, so it is not known if it is of historical or prehistoric origin.
 - To establish the presence or absence of archaeological activity on the site.
 - To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site pre-dating the dog track.
 - To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site.
- 8.1.3 There was an absence of archaeological activity predating the post-medieval period.
- 8.1.4 Archaeological activity consisted of post-medieval domestic features relating to the use of the back yards of buildings facing onto Summerstown, and agricultural ditches across the western and central portions of the site.
 - To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 8.1.5 Post-depositional impacts were minimal across the excavation, with evidence of demolition seen in layers sealing the earlier deposits and features.
- 8.1.6 Within the car park area modern concrete backfilled postholes were the only modern intrusions seen, whilst inside the stadium modern cuts for electricity cables impacted the alluvial layers.

9 IMPACT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 9.1 The proposed development comprises a 20,000 seat football stadium and residential buildings.
- 9.2 The archaeological activity seen relates only to the later post-medieval period, with earlier deposits comprising alluvial layers consistent with map evidence that this area consisted of marshy and waterlogged ground.
- 9.3 There was little potential for the site to provide cultural information pre-dating the later postmedieval period.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and Mark Stevenson of Historic England for monitoring it on behalf of the London Borough of Merton.
- 10.2 The site supervisor would like to thank the site manager Robin Glassup, the onsite security staff, Roy Goff and Henry Devlin of O'Connell's and Chloe Sinclair, Leonardo Penades, Tristan Murray, Ilkka Sipila and Fergal Nevin all of Pre-Construct Archaeology for their hard work, support, help assistance on site.
- 10.3 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins of Pre-Construct Archaeology for her project management and editing, Rik Archer for the site survey, Tilia Cammegh for the CAD illustrations and John Joyce for logistical support.

Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium, Plough Lane, London Borough of Merton SW17 0BL: An Archaeological Evaluation

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11 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context CTX_Type	Fill_of	Area	CTX_Interpretation	CTX_Category	CTX_Length	CTX_Width	CTX_Depth	CTX_Levels_high	CTX_Levels_low
1 Fill	2	Trench 8	Fill of potential post pipe	Use	0.64		0.4	8.34	
2 Cut		Trench 8	Cut of potential post pipe	Post-hole	0.64		0.4	8.32	7.99
3 Fill	4	Trench 8	Fill of post hole	Use	0.9	0.83	0.66	8.22	8.14
4 Cut		Trench 8	Cut of post hole	Pit	0.9	0.83	0.66	8.21	7.54
5 Layer		Trench 8	Post-medieval made ground	Make-up	30	2	0.5	8.74	8.55
6 Fill	7	Trench 8	Fill of pit [7]	Use	1.32	1.2	0.85	7.84	
7 Cut		Trench 8	Cut of Post-medieval pit	Pit	1.32	1.2	0.85	7.84	7.35
8 Fill	9	Trench 8	Fill of post-medieval pit	Use	1.8	0.4	0.75	7.85	
9 Cut		Trench 8	Cut of post-medieval pit	Pit	1.8	0.4	0.75	7.85	7.45
10 Fill	11	Trench 8	Fill of post-medieval pit	Use	1.55	1.6	0.65	7.97	
11 Cut		Trench 8	Cut of post-medieval pit	Pit	1.55	1.6	0.65	7.97	7.58
12 Fill	13	Trench 8	Fill of post-medieval cess pit	Use	1.4	3.2	0.33	8.28	8.08
13 Cut		Trench 8	Cut of post-medieval cess pit	Pit	1.4	3.2	0.33	8.28	7.26
14 Fill	15	Trench 8	Fill of post-medieval ditch	Infilling	1.5	2	0.62	7.96	
15 Cut		Trench 8	Cut of post-medieval ditch	Ditch	1.5	2	0.62	7.96	7.55
16 Layer		Trench 8	Layer of natural alluvium	Alluvial	25	2	0.8	8.36	8.08
17 Fill	18	Trench 8	Fill of post-medieval posthole/pit	Use	1.21	0.13	0.29	8.44	8.24
18 Cut		Trench 8	Cut of post-medieval posthole/pit	Pit	1.21	0.13	0.29	8.44	8.14
19 Natural		Trench 1	Layer of natural alluvium	Alluvial	30	2	0.43	8.27	8.19
20 Fill	21	Trench 8	Fill of post hole	Use	0.15		0.05	7.76	
21 Cut		Trench 8	Cut of post hole	Post-hole	0.15		0.05	7.76	7.71
22 Natural		Trench 2	Layer of natural alluvium	Alluvial	24.15	2	0.15	7.83	
23 Natural		Trench 1	Layer of natural alluvium	Alluvial	30	2	0.61	7.5	
24 Natural		Trench 1	Layer of natural Gravel	Natural	30	2	0.08	6.97	
25 Natural		Trench 2	Layer of natural Gravel	Natural	24.15	2	1.76	7.68	
26 Natural		Trench 2	Layer of natural Clay	Natural	24.15	2	0.05	5.92	
27 Natural		Trench 2	Layer of natural alluvium	Natural	24.15	2	0.32	8.13	
28 Timber		Trench 9	Vertical wooden post	Post	0.75	0.1	0.06	8.35	7.62
29 Timber		Trench 9	Vertical wooden post	Post	0.66	0.1	0.06	8.54	7.55
30 Fill	31	Trench 9	Fill of post hole	Backfill	0.12	0.1	0.09	7.97	
31 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of post hole	Post-hole	0.12	0.1	0.09	7.97	7.88
32 Fill	33	Trench 9	Fill of post hole	Backfill	0.1	0.1	0.06	7.99	

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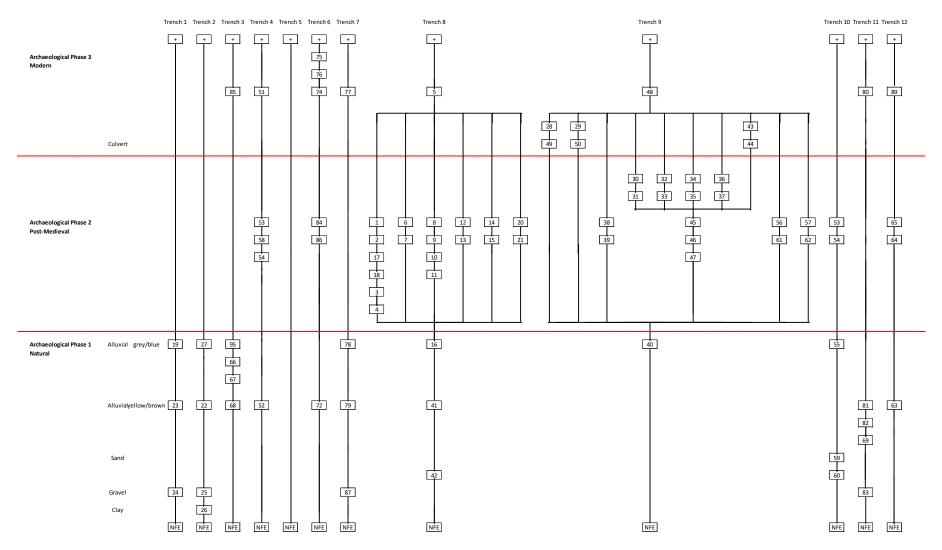
Context CTX_Type	Fill_of	Area	CTX_Interpretation	CTX_Category	CTX_Length	CTX_Width	CTX_Depth	CTX_Levels_high	CTX_Levels_low
33 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of post hole	Post-hole	0.1	0.1	0.06	7.99	7.93
34 Fill	35	Trench 9	Fill of post hole	Post-hole	0.07	0.08	0.06	7.99	
35 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of post hole	Post-hole	0.07	0.08	0.06	7.99	7.93
36 Fill	37	Trench 9	Fill of post hole	Post-hole	0.08	0.1	0.06	8.01	
37 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of post hole	Post-hole	0.08	0.1	0.06	8.01	7.95
38 Fill	39	Trench 9	Fill of ditch	Post-hole	1.86	2.48	1.1	7.88	
39 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of ditch	Post-hole	1.86	2.48	1.1	7.88	7.15
40 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of ditch	Post-hole	1.86	2.48	1.1	7.88	7.15
41 Natural		Trench 8	Layer of natural alluvium	Alluvial	25	2	0.7	7.3	
42 Natural		Trench 8	Layer of natural sand	Natural	2	2	0.3	6.58	
43 Fill	44	Trench 9	Backfill of colverted River Wandle	Backfill	4.4	2	0.35	8.14	8
44 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of colverted river wandle	Construction Cut	4.4	2	0.35	8.14	7.66
45 Fill	47	Trench 9	Fill of linear	Infilling	1.61	1.42	0.14	8.01	7.87
46 Fill	47	Trench 9	Fill of pre canalised River Wandle	Infilling	1.95	1.8	0.27	8.01	7.74
47 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of pre canalised River Wandle	Natural	1.95	1.8	0.27	8.01	7.74
48 Layer		Trench 9	Post-medieval layer	Natural	25	2	0.66	9.01	8.71
49 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of wooden post	Natural	0.07	0.06	0.53	8.15	7.62
50 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of wooden post	Natural	0.12	0.06	0.6	8.15	7.55
51 Layer		Trench 4	Layer of post medieval/modern made	Natural	3.5	2	0.42	8.65	
52 Natural		Trench 4	Layer of natural alluvium	Natural	3.5	2	0.7	8.05	
53 Fill	54	Trench 4	Fill of ditch	Natural	3.1	0.85	0.66	8.05	
54 Cut		Trench 4	cut of ditch	Natural	3.1	0.85	0.66	8.05	7.38
55 Natural		Trench 10	Layer of natural alluvium	Alluvial	23.5	2	1.37	7.96	
56 Fill	61	Trench 9	Fill of post hole	Infilling	0.52	0.24	0.34	7.89	
57 Fill	62	Trench 9	Fill of post hole	Infilling	0.2	0.26	0.08	7.96	
58 Fill	54	Trench 4	Fill of ditch	Infilling	3.1	0.85	0.1	7.47	
59 Layer		Trench 10	Layer of natural sand	Natural	235	2	0.26	6.65	
60 Layer		Trench 10	Layer of natural sand	Natural	235	2	0.12	6.47	
61 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of post hole	Natural	0.52	0.24	0.34	7.89	7.55
62 Cut		Trench 9	Cut of post hole	Natural	0.2	0.26	0.08	7.96	7.88
63 Layer		Trench 12	Layer of natural alluvium	Natural	26.5	2	0.17	7.7	
64 Cut		Trench 12	Cut of ditch	Ditch	3.9	2	0.17	7.7	7.58

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Context	CTX_Type	Fill_of	Area	CTX_Interpretation	CTX_Category	CTX_Length	CTX_Width	CTX_Depth	CTX_Levels_high	CTX_Levels_low
65	Fill	64	Trench 12	Filll of ditch	Infilling	3.9	2	0.17	7.7	
66	Fill	67	Trench 3	Fill of channel	Infilling	2.6	1.8	0.57	7.24	
67	Cut		Trench 3	Cut of channel	Natural	2.6	1.8	0.57	7.24	6.7
68	Layer		Trench 3	Layer of natural alluvium	Alluvial	25.7	1.8	0.51	7.24	
69	Layer		Trench 11	Layer of natural alluvium	Alluvial	30	2	0.75	7.14	
70	Void		Trench 6		Void					
71	Void		Trench 6		Void					
72	Layer		Trench 6	Layer of natural alluvium	Alluvial	33.5	2	0.75	8.07	
73	Layer		Trench 6	Layer of natural alluvium	Alluvial	33.5	2	0.45	8.5	
74	Layer		Trench 6	Post-medieval layer	Make-up	33.5	2	0.48	8.85	
75	Layer		Trench 6	Pos-medieval layer	Make-up	33.5	2	0.2	8.99	
76	Layer		Trench 6	Pos-medieval layer	Make-up					
77	Layer		Trench 7	Pos-medieval layer	Make-up	35	2	0.44	8.46	8.07
78	Natural		Trench 7	Layer of alluvial	Alluvial	35	2	0.18	8.16	
79	Natural		Trench 7	Layer of alluvial	Alluvial	35	2	0.71	8	7.63
80	Layer		Trench 11	Post-medieval made ground	Make-up	30	2	0.16	8.01	
81	Layer		Trench 11	Layer of Alluvium	Alluvial	30	2	0.49	7.88	
82	Layer		Trench 11	Layer of Alluvium	Alluvial	30	2	0.26	7.39	
83	Natural		Trench 11	Layer of natural sandy gravel	Natural	30	2	0.11	6.4	
84	Fill	86	Trench 6	Fill of ditch	Infilling	3.9	2	0.5	8.07	
85	Layer		Trench 3	Post-medieval layer	Make-up	25.7	2	0.41	8.35	
86	Cut		Trench 6	Cut of ditch	Ditch	3.9	2	0.5	8.07	
87	Natural		Trench 7	Layer of natural sandy gravel	Natural	35	2	0.04	6.74	
88	Void		Trench 10		Void					
89	Layer		Trench 12	Layer of buried topsoil	Garden Soil	26.5	2	0.42	8.15	
90	Void		Trench 12		Void					
91	Void		Trench 12		Void					
92	Void		Trench 12		Void					
93	Void		Trench 10		Void					
94	Void		Trench 10		Void					
95	Layer		Trench 3	Layer of alluvium	Alluvial	25.7	2	0.74	8.94	

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: POTTERY SPOT DATING

Berni Sudds

Context	Date	Comments
3	1835 – 1900	Yellow ware with mocha slip decoration and Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration (Wild Rose pattern)
5	1850 – 1900+	Maling jar, English stoneware blacking paste pot, Refined whiteware with under-glaze green, brown and 'flow blue' transfer-printed decoration. Bone china, continental porcelain figurine. Sunderland-type ware. Yellow ware (plain and with slip decoration).
6	1805 – 1840+	Possibly later. Pearlware with transfer-printed decoration, Creamware with developed pale glaze, London-area post- medieval redware, Refined white earthenware
8	Mid/ late 19 th century	Refined whiteware with under-glaze green and blue transfer- printed decoration (some mid-blue), English stoneware blacking bottle, Pearlware plate with blue shell-edged rim.
10	Mid/ late 19 th century	English stoneware, Refined whiteware with under-glaze green and mid blue transfer-printed decoration, London-area post-medieval redware, Yellow ware, London tin-glazed ware with plain white glaze.
14	Mid/ late 19 th century	English stoneware blacking paste pot, Bone china with lustre decoration, Refined whiteware with under-glaze pale blue transfer-printed decoration, Yellow ware, London-area post-medieval redware
38	1830 - 1900	English stoneware with Bristol glaze, Refined white earthenware, Refined whiteware with under-glaze green, brown and purple transfer-printed decoration, London-area post-medieval redware flowerpots.
43	Mid/late 19 th century	Large group. Bone china, Refined white earthenware with slip decoration, Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer- printed decoration (Wild Rose pattern), pale blue transfers, Refined white earthenware with sponged decoration. Maling jars, 'Brown Betty' teapot, English stoneware blacking bottle. Sunderland-type ware.
46	Late 19 th century	English stoneware with Bristol glaze (Doulton blacking bottle), Refined white earthenware with slip decoration, Refined whiteware with under-glaze pale blue and Prussian blue transfer-printed decoration, Yellow ware with slip decoration, Sunderland-type ware.
53	1740 - 1830	Creamware.
76	L.19 th – E.20 th century	Refined whiteware with under-glaze brown transfer-printed and blue and yellow painted decoration. Pattern and makers mark to reverse (NORMAN S.H.). Samson Hancock 'Norman' pattern. 20 th century German porcelain? Bone china souvenir plate with pink lustre and a black-transfer print of Broadstairs.

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APPENDIX 4: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE SPOT DATING

By Chris Jarrett

Context	Date
6	c. 1840-45
43	1840-1860
46	1840-1910
85	17 th Century

APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-298461

Project details	
Project name	Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium, Plough Lane, London Borough of Merton SW17 0BL: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted within Wimbledon Greyhound stadium and its associated car park. These trenches revealed a natural geology of clay overlain by sand and gravels. Several layers of alluvium were seen across the site, confirming the belief that this was a waterlogged area. A possible palaeochannel was seen towards the south, sealed between two layers of alluvium, whilst the remaining archaeological features were post-medieval, a number of domestic cut features truncated the alluvial layers to the northeast of the site, and an agricultural ditch system to the northwest and central part of the site.
Project dates	Start: 19-09-2017 End: 02-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	14/P4361 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	AGRICULTURAL DITCHES Post Medieval
Monument type	CESS PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	POST HOLES Post Medieval
Monument type	CHANNEL Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning agreement (Section 106 or 52)
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	Frederid

Country

England

Site location	GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium, Plough Lane, London Borough of Merton
Postcode	SW17 0BL
Study area	5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 26155 71817 51.430789555478 -0.185043085342 51 25 50 N 000 11 06 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.4m Max: 6.97m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Helen Hawkins
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Stacey Amanda Harris
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	POG17
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	POG17
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	POG17
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	

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