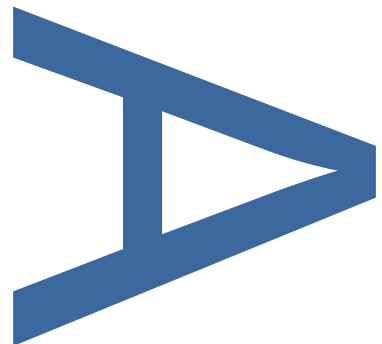
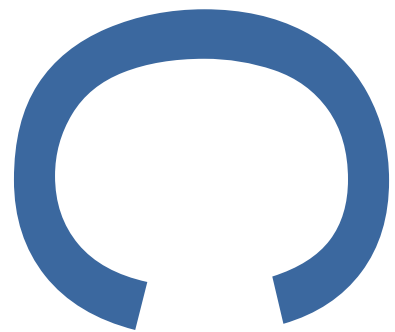


**12A RAVENSBURY TERRACE,
EARLSFIELD, MERTON SW18 4RL
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

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

SITE CODE: RVO18

MAY 2018



**12A RAVENSBUURY TERRACE, EARLSFIELD, MERTON SW18 4RL
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Site Code: RVO18

Central NGR: TQ 525863 172897

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Merton

Planning Reference:

Other reference if any:

Commissioning Client: James Laurence Group

Written/Researched by: Tanya Jones
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project Manager: Helen Hawkins (MCIfA)

Rev 1: Client Comments

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925

E-mail: hhawkins@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

May 2018

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

12A RAVENSBURY TERRACE, EARLSFIELD, MERTON SW18 4RL
Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5506
	Name		Date
Text Prepared by:	T Jones		15.5.18
Graphics Prepared by:	M Steel		15.5.18
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown		15.5.18
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		15.5.18

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

CONTENTS

1	Abstract	3
2	Introduction.....	4
3	Geology and Topography.....	5
4	Archaeological and Historical Background.....	6
5	Archaeological Methodology	10
6	The Archaeological sequence	11
7	Research Objectives and Conclusions	12
8	Acknowledgements.....	12
9	Bibliography.....	12
	Figure 1: Site Location	14
	Figure 2: Trench Location	15
	Figure 3: Sections	16
	Plates	17
	Appendix 1: Context Index.....	20
	Appendix 2: Phased Matrix	21
	Appendix 3: Animal Bone.....	22
	Appendix 4: QUEST Review of Column Samples.....	23
	Appendix 5: Oasis form	24

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 12A Ravensbury Terrace, Earlsfield, Merton SW18 4RL. The site was located within the London Borough of Merton and was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 525863 172897.
- 1.2 Following the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by RPS (Masefield, 2018), an archaeological evaluation was conducted between 1st and 4th May 2017 in advance of the demolition and redevelopment of the property. The site was located directly adjacent to the River Wandle and had a potential for palaeo-environmental material related to the Wandle flood plain.
- 1.3 Three trenches were excavated, two of which were located in the sub-basement of the main building on the site, and one which was located in the yard area.
- 1.4 Natural river lain deposits of sand (Kempton Park Gravel) were located in the centre of the site, in the north of the basement at around 6.55m OD.
- 1.5 The natural sand was overlain by river lain alluvial clay deposits which were sealed with made ground underneath the basement. This sequence was also seen in the external trench which was further overlain by a brick rubble made ground.
- 1.6 The evaluation identified only river laid deposits which were sampled for further analysis. There was no evidence for peat deposits and no indication of post-medieval buildings such as mills being present on the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 12A Ravensbury Terrace, Earlsfield, Merton SW18 4RL between 1st and 4th May 2018. The site was located within the London Borough of Merton and was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 525863 172897 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site measured approximately 0.1ha in size and was located adjacent to the River Wandle. The site comprised an open yard in the northern area (following removal of a former light outbuilding), with an office building in the southern/western area and a substation and light structures east of the yard. The office building was located a sub-basement level.
- 2.2.1 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zone (APZ) as defined by the London Borough of Merton. The Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (Archaeology Priority Zone in Merton) text states:
- Wandle Valley Alluvium*
- This area includes the alluvial silts deposited within the Wandle Valley. Evidence for both prehistoric human activity, and the contemporary natural environment can be preserved within of beneath the alluvial deposits.*
- 2.3 The consented application was for demolition and redevelopment of the site to provide office accommodation (318.4m) on the ground floor with 24 residential units on the first, second and third, fourth and fifth floors, together with 8 car parking spaces including two disabled spaces and associated landscaping, cycle and refuse storage.
- 2.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with Condition 14 of the planning permission and GLAAS guidance (Historic England 2015). Correspondence with Laura O’Gorman of GLAAS on 5th March 2018 confirmed that the archaeological work should comprise archaeological trial trenching and the trench plan was agreed on 27th March 2018.
- 2.5 The trench layout comprised a 5% sample of the site and was designed to avoid various service lines and Environment Agency constraints for excavation adjacent to the River Wandle flood zone. Two larger trenches were located with the sub-basement of the existing flat-roofed former commercial office building currently fronting Ravensbury Terrace and occupying much of the site. A third small trench was cut from a higher level and was located in the highly restricted area of available external concrete yard within the northern area of site.
- 2.6 The site was assigned the unique site code RVO18, issued by the Museum of London. The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will, upon completion of the project, be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under that code.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The following geological and topographical information was taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Masfield, 2018).
- 3.2 The natural topography of the site is flat due to its location within the River Wandle floodplain. As such the site is located on Holocene period 'Alluvium; mainly sand, silt and clay' above Kempton Park Gravel of the Pleistocene, in turn above London Clay (BGS Sheet 270; 1998).
- 3.3 A borehole was undertaken within the eastern area of the site to assist the previously consented application for 12 Ravensbury Terrace (GEA 2015). The following sequence was logged:
- 1.8m of 'Made Ground (Soft Black silt with fragments of brick and decaying wood, organic odour)' above
 - 1.3m of 'Soft dark brownish blackish grey silty sandy clay with fragments of carbonaceous material and organic odour' (I.E. alluvium) above
 - 2.2m of 'Medium dense brownish black sand and gravel' (Kempton Park Gravel), above
 - 'Firm becoming stiff high to very high strength grey fissured clay – Claystone at 14.9m depth' (London Clay).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The following was taken from the archaeological and historical background in the Desk Based Assessment (Masefield 2017).

4.2 Palaeolithic

4.2.1 The earliest archaeological finds from the Wimbledon/Wandsworth area date to the Palaeolithic period but erosion during successive glacial and inter-glacial periods has removed most of the land-surfaces associated with early hunter-gatherers. Re-deposited artefacts are occasionally found within terrace gravels. Palaeolithic flints and implements have been found associated with Kempton Park Gravel in a cluster some 140m to the north-east of the Site around Groton Road, Earlsfield. These include two separate handaxe finds, the former attributed to the Lower Palaeolithic, with the remaining two comprising an implement and another unclassified lithic find. According to Merton Supplementary Planning Guidance: archaeology, the fossils of a mammoth, rhinoceros and giant ox along with handaxes have been found within Merton, whilst 'other finds dating as far back as 10,000 BC and remains of early settlements have also been found along the course of the River Wandle...'

4.3 Mesolithic

4.3.1 Mesolithic hunter-foragers were operating within a largely forested inland environment and consequently their camps are usually found in coastal areas, and where within inland areas, by rivers and streams, which were used both for communication and resources. The major communications line of the River Thames and its tributaries, such as the River Wandle, attracted Mesolithic activities for fishing and fowling. However, their camps have often left very little, if any, archaeological traces (other than occasional and often redeposited scatters of worked flint). A single flint scraper of early Mesolithic to late Neolithic date is also recorded from the Groton Road area whilst a Mesolithic period peat deposition has been tagged via a palaeo-environmental study by the Museum of London Archaeology Section in 1995 at the Kenco Works at Strathville Road around 300m to the northwest of the Site. Trial trenching for the Openview Sports Ground at Earlsfield c.600m east of the Site in 2006 produced a residual Mesolithic flint core.

4.4 Neolithic

4.4.1 The first farmers of the Neolithic created post-glacial forest clearances for the newly domesticated crops and stock. As in all the following periods the gravel terraces of the River Thames and tributaries including the River Wandle proved a focus for settlement. The brickearth and Thames Valley terrace gravels of the wider London area have generally proven to be attractive to Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age farmers, although the features are often shallow and particularly vulnerable to removal via truncation within built up urban areas. Very few sites and finds are known in the vicinity with a single Neolithic flint axe found at Groton Road along with the early Mesolithic to late Neolithic scraper mentioned above.

4.4.2 In relation to early farmers 'Current archaeological knowledge suggests that prehistoric activity in the Borough was restricted to areas of easily-worked soils overlying gravel and alluvial deposits principally around Wimbledon Common and Mitcham. However, there may be materials still to be found in other soils.' (Merton Supplementary Planning Guidance: Archaeology).

4.5 Bronze Age

4.5.1 The Bronze Age provides the first substantial evidence for settlement and farming within the wider area. It is also notable that the emergence of Middle and Late Bronze Age field-systems, representing a further intensification of land clearance for the first permanent farming settlements, is a common phenomenon of the River Thames gravel terraces. These have been most comprehensively investigated at Heathrow but a number of Bronze Age finds are associated with the River Wandle. In general terms the gravels of the Wandle valley may have been preferred for settlement, particularly as water table rose in the Late Bronze Age. Herdsmen may have used drove routes to and from the narrow floodplain and northwards to the River Thames itself.

4.5.2 The sole HER reference of Bronze Age date relates to a spearhead found associated with the Wandle Valley Alluvium APZ some 250m to the south of the Site.

4.6 Iron Age

- 4.6.1 Iron Age society seems to have become increasingly territorial, with political power apparently focussed on hill forts. The Scheduled Monument hillfort of 'Caesar's Camp' is located within Wimbledon Common well to the west and contained a fortified village-like settlement throughout the Iron Age. The 43ha circular ditched ring-work may have had its origins in the late Bronze Age or earliest Iron Age c.800BC (Merton Supplementary Planning Guidance: Archaeology). Its ditch is c.10m wide and c.3m deep.
- 4.6.2 Farmsteads, hamlets and villages of Iron Age date are known across the wider region from most geologies. The light well drained geologies found within the Study Area are particularly likely to have been exploited for agriculture. As in the Bronze Age, drove routes are likely to have connected the gravel terraces with the rivers such as the Wandle, and a wider intensification of settlement is evident in the region by the late Iron Age. However, there no known Iron Age sites or finds within the Study Area itself.

4.7 Romano-British

- 4.7.1 With the Roman period came a re-organisation of the settlement system with the establishment of an efficient road network. The further rise of non-agriculturally based professions such as traders and administrators was indicative of a boom in the rural economy. As a result of an increase of wealth, stability and rising population Romano-British sites are common in the area and across the south-east of England in general. Merton Supplementary Planning Guidance confirms that Caesar's Camp continued to be occupied in the Roman period but whilst there was a growth in settlement the occupation sites south of Londinium generally comprised scattered farmsteads
- 4.7.2 The arterial Roman road of 'Stane Street' linking Londinium and Chichester was locally aligned through Merton Borough at the border with Tooting and bridged the Wandle at Colliers Wood, en route to Sutton and Londinium (broadly following the A24). Its construction attracted roadside settlement such as in the area of the modern Morden Road/Deer Park Road. Roman graves have been found at Mitcham Gas Works in Western Road along with a well, indicating one associated settlement (Merton Borough History website). Other settlements include a possible hamlet/small village at Haslemere Avenue, Willow Lane and a farmstead at Western Road, Mitcham. The Wandle probably played an equally important role as in subsequent periods, and was itself a potentially navigable routeway in the Roman period.
- 4.7.3 The usual settlement density for Roman farms is between 500m and 1km apart, whilst proximity to the market at Londinium will have been a particular stimulus to the rural economy.
- 4.7.4 Although there are no known Roman period settlements or finds within the Study Area the general area is likely to have been settled and farmed.

4.8 Saxon

- 4.8.1 The Saxon period is marked by the evacuation of the Roman army and administration under Honorius in AD410. The towns were abandoned and early Saxon settlement was initially concentrated at Lundenwic Aldwych and The Strand. Saxons, Jutes and Angles arrived in a gradual response to the power vacuum left by the departure of the Romans and population pressures in their homelands. The early Saxon rural settlement pattern is characterised by dispersed farms, with village/parish system emerging by the late Saxon period leading to 'a network of medieval homesteads and village nuclei across the Borough' (Merton Supplementary Planning Guidance: Archaeology). These settlements tended to be located close to and within the river valleys such as the Wandle.
- 4.8.2 The place name Earlsfield (the suburb adjacent to the Site) is not of Saxon derivation being the name given to the area by a long demolished 1860s mansion. The place-names of Merton, Mitcham, Morden and Wandsworth are, however, of Saxon derivation with Merton meaning 'farmstead by a pool', as mentioned in the 10th Century. An early Saxon cemetery excavated in Mitcham provides good evidence for a settlement in the vicinity during the immediate post-Roman period. The settlements of Merton and Morden probably have late Saxon origins. Settlement at Wimbledon (the parish within whose extreme north-east corner the Site is located) may also have started at this time, with documents of the 10th century apparently mentioning Wimbledon, including a will of c.950 of Bishop Theodred of London that refers to the manor of 'Wunemannedon' (place on a hill or 'dun' founded by a Saxon leader called

Wynnmann) and a charter by King Edgar refers to the manor of 'Wimbedoungng' as forming the northern boundary of Merton. The Lord of the manor was the Archbishop of Canterbury prior to and following Conquest. The settlement of Wandsworth to the north of the Site appears to have developed and expanded during the Saxon period, and this expansion continued into medieval times. By 1086 a number of fisheries and watermills appear to have been associated with the Wandle within Wandsworth (Wandsworth Historical Society). The fisheries were well established by the 15th and 16th centuries.

- 4.8.3 The reference to the period on the HER is an identification of a Late Saxon alluvial sequence found via trial trenching at the 'One O'clock Centre', Siward Road, Garratt Park c.0.5km to the south of the Site.

4.9 Medieval

- 4.9.1 The 1086 Domesday Book records the village of Merton as the largest in the vicinity. 13th century documents refer to Wymenden, Wimbledune and Wyveldon. Proximity to London may have also attracted wealth to the Wimbledon and Wandsworth area and the River Wandle remained attractive source of water to drive mills. The HER records the closest known medieval settlement to the Site as that of a former location of a manor house approximately 300m to the north of the Site. It is possible that the Site lay within its farmland to the north side of Dunts Hill Road. A medieval findspot is also recorded to the east of the Site at 533 Garratt Lane.

- 4.9.2 An evaluation via trenching at Burr Road, Wandsworth, some 700m to the north-west of the Site, was specifically designed to test for the possibility of presence of a medieval mill powered via a leat running from the Wandle 250m to the east. However, no such evidence was encountered due to the depth of modern made ground. There is no information to suggest the presence of a mill specifically in the area of the present Site.

4.10 Post-medieval and modern

- 4.10.1 Historic maps indicate that the area of the site was distantly located from the main local settlements in the 16th to 18th centuries with mills labelled to the north towards Wandsworth and to the south ('Strong Mill') and to the south-west at Wimbledon Pond Mills (1729). By 1822 Garratt Mill was in use to the south-east. The absence of post-medieval mills at the specific location of the Site, along with the paucity of early post-medieval settlement in the close proximity of the Site, probably diminishes the potential for earlier mills at this location on the Wandle. By the late 18th century it is recorded that 500 people within Wandsworth were employed in factories and mills. Garratt Lane was in place to the east side of the Wandle by 1729, with Garratt Green to the south-east. Garratt Paper Mills were established by 1868 c.200m south of the Site. The name Garrett (or Garratt) is derived from an estate (on the east bank of the Wandle) which is known to have existed in 1538. The HER records (RPS 29) that 'Garratt was a hamlet in the south of the parish of Wandsworth, mentioned in the records of Merton Priory as ÔÇÿtenement of the Garrett, manor of DurnsfordÔÇÖ in 1538'.

- 4.10.2 A Calico Print and Dye works is depicted c.200m to the north-west of the Site by 1868.

- 4.10.3 Urbanisation of the Wimbledon and Wandsworth areas was stimulated by the arrival of the London and South Western Railway after 1838 and additional lines between 1859 and 1889 (NB the 1822 Old Series OS map of 1822 is modified to show the later railway line). Rapid late 19th and early 20th century construction of terraced housing made Wimbledon and Wandsworth dormitory towns and the historic mapping indicates the sequence of urbanisation around the Site itself. This effect is demonstrated by census records that show in 1801 the population of Wimbledon was 1,591 but rose to 25,671 by 1891 and 61,418 by 1921.

- 4.10.4 The history of the Site itself suggested by the mapping is that it covered parts of two marshy pasture fields in the later post-medieval period until the early 20th century. The western area was occupied by a large 'Incandescent Mantle Works' by 1913 which was modified with addition extension and buildings to the north and north-east within the Site by 1935. In 1948 the use of the complex was labelled as 'Chemical Works'. An incandescent gas mantle (or Welsbach mantle) was a device in use from the late 19th century for generating bright white light when flame heated. The mantle refers to the manner by which it was hung above the flame. Such industrial uses may be associated with contamination of soils depending on the mode of deposition of waste material.

- 4.10.5 There are no Listed Buildings within the close vicinity with only two (Grade II) Listed Buildings recorded within the Study Area. These comprise the Church of St Andrew (built 1889 to 1902) c.300m to the south-east and the early 18th century Leather Bottle Public house approximately 500m to the south-south-east. There are four further locally listed buildings of 19th century origin within the Magdalen Park Conservation Area from c.300m to the east of the Site. These comprise two lengths of railings, the Earlsfield Baptist Chapel on Magdalen Road (RPS 4) and Earlsfield Primary School at Tramere Road. The 19th century and later United Reform Church to the north-north-east and Wandsworth Cemetery to the north-east are also recorded on the HER.
- 4.10.6 Modern records on the HER comprise the 20th century King George's Park to the north-northwest of the Site (originally called Southfields park), laid out by Percy Cane in 1921-3 and opened by King George, and Garratt Park to the south. Trial trenching for the Openview Sports Ground at Earlsfield c.600m east of the Site also located two small pits containing post medieval brick/tile.
- 4.10.7 The general paucity of earlier post-medieval archaeology in the area from various evaluations and watching briefs reflects its formerly rural nature, with some of the entries for the later postmedieval period simply noting the presence of later 19th /20th century made ground. The only archaeological identifications are of a peat layer and a pit at the western edge of the Magdalen Park Conservation Area, east of the Site. In addition 19th century alluvium was recorded by AOC Archaeology within boreholes at Duntshill Mill, Wandsworth indicating the late date of some alluviation associated with the Wandle.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to undertake archaeological evaluation works within the proposed footprint of the development to gain an understanding of the archaeological potential of the site and, if necessary, enable a mitigation strategy to mitigate the effects of development to be devised.
- 5.2 Trench 1 was located within the south-western area of the sub-basement and measured 6.5m by 5m. Trench 2 was located within the north-eastern area of the sub-basement and measured 4m by 4m, although the area excavated in both trenches was eventually reduced in order to avoid the internal pillars.
- 5.3 In to the base of Trenches 1 and 2, 1m by 1m test pits were hand excavated to further investigate the archaeological/geo-archaeological potential of the alluvium. These were taken down to approximately 0.90m-1.0m. A greater depth could not be achieved for health and safety reasons, as the trenches became extremely wet. A column sample was taken from each for review of the palaeo-environmental potential.
- 5.4 A third small trench, measuring 2m by 1m was cut from higher up and was located within the highly restricted area of available external concrete yard within the northern area of site.
- 5.5 The trenches were designed to establish whether foundations of former buildings or other archaeological features truncated the surface of the alluvium.
- 5.6 The excavation of the trenches was undertaken using a mechanical excavator. Once the concrete slab was removed, the mechanical excavator used a toothless ditching bucket to remove modern overburden under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was mounded a safe distance from the edges of the trench. Machine excavation continued in spits of 100mm at a time until either significant archaeological strata were found or a level of 1.2m below ground level had been reached, whichever came first.
- 5.7 Excavation continued until a level of 1.2m below ground level was reached. Once this level had been reached machining was stopped and subsequent investigation was carried out by hand. Representative sections and plans were drawn. The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in London; that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual and presented in PCA's *Operations Manual 1* (Taylor 2009). The site archive was organised to be compatible with the archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area.
- 5.8 As a Health and Safety requirement, once the slab was broken out, radon gas testing of the made ground took place to ensure the ground was safe to work in (as per the Site Investigation report).
- 5.9 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation, comprising digital photographs.
- 5.10 A site TBM was established by GPS with a value of 8.67mOD.
- 5.11 The complete archive produced during the evaluation, comprising written, drawn, photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with LAARC, identified by site code RVO18.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Two phases of activity were recorded during the evaluation:

- Phase 1 represents the natural geology
- Phase 2 represents modern activity

6.2 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

6.2.1 A natural blackish brown sand deposit was exposed in Trench 2 at 6.55m OD (context [5]). This was likely part of the Pleistocene river sediment that had accumulated over an extended period of time. An animal bone was found in the deposit, which had probably washed in from elsewhere (Appendix 3).

6.2.2 Overlying the sand was an alluvial layer of dark greyish brown silty clay [4] approximately 0.15m thick, the top of which was located at a height of 6.62m OD. The layer was most likely an alluvial river deposit of Holocene date and contained organic material, although it did not comprise peat.

6.2.3 This layer was sealed by mid greyish brown clay [3] which was approximately 0.25m thick and was located at a height of 6.88m OD which again was likely to have been river deposited and contained a number of mollusc deposits.

6.2.4 This layer was sealed by mid-light greyish blue clay [2]. This layer was approximately 0.12m thick in Trench 2 and located at a height 6.98m OD. Trench 1 and Trench 3 both appeared to have a similar clay layer at the base. In Trench 1, clay layer [7] was seen at roughly 6.83m OD and was exposed to a thickness of 1.38m when for health and safety reasons digging was stopped. In Trench 3 layer [10] was seen at roughly 6.97m OD with a 0.60m thickness when digging was stopped for health and safety reasons. These layers are likely to be natural river deposits from the nearby Wandle.

6.3 Phase 2: Modern

6.3.1 Overlaying the clay in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 was a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay [6], [1] and [9] respectively. In Trench 1 this layer was seen at a height of 7.34m OD and was approximately 0.52m thick. In Trench 2 the layer was at a height of 7.44m OD and approximately 0.40m thick and Trench 3 the layer was at a height of 8.07m OD and was approximately 1.10m thick. Internally, this layer appeared to be the made ground for the concrete floor of the basement. In the yard Trench 3, the made ground comprised ground raising material and was rubbly.

6.3.2 Trench 3 was sealed by mid reddish brown sandy silt made ground layer which was seen at a height of 8.57m OD and approximately 0.50m thick. This made ground would have been used as a levelling layer for the current ground surface which is overlain by concrete and Tarmac.

7 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Research Objectives

- 7.1.1 The following research objectives were contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation.

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.

- 7.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were seen during the evaluation. The column samples taken will be subject to a full assessment by Quest (see Appendix 4).

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.

- 7.1.3 There were no archaeological remains encountered.

To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.

- 7.1.4 The site was made up of a number of alluvial river deposits, which appeared to have a number of environmental inclusions; column samples were taken from the base of the sequence in order for further examination to take place (see Appendix 4).

To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.

- 7.1.5 The sequence in Trenches 1 and 2 found modern made ground directly over alluvial deposits and it was clear that the construction of the sub-basement had removed any potential deposits relating to the post-prehistoric period. However, the sequence seen in Trench 3, where the sub-basement was not present, indicated that above the alluvial layers was a layer of made ground consolidating the wetter ground below. There was no indication in Trench 3 that any archaeological deposits of interest had been truncated; rather the ground had been built up.

7.2 Conclusions

- 7.2.1 The evaluation trenches contained no archaeological features, much of the site consisted of water lain deposits which have been sampled for further review. There was no evidence for archaeological material post-dating the Holocene alluvium on the site, and no evidence that a mill building or similar had been located on the site. The column samples taken from the lower riverine sequence will be subject to full palaeo-environmental analysis by Quest (Appendix 4). This will comprise the archaeological mitigation for the site.
- 7.2.2 Once the project is deemed complete and this report approved by Historic England, the completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will be deposited by PCA with LAARC under the site code RVO18. Until then the archive comprising all paper, digital and artefactual material will be stored at PCA's headquarters in Brockley, London.
- 7.2.3 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the *London Archaeologist* 'Round Up'.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank James Laurence Group for commissioning the archaeological work and for their help on site.
- 8.2 Thanks are given to Rob Masefield for consulting and Louise Davies and Laura O'Gorman of GLAAS for monitoring the project on behalf of the London Borough of Merton.
- 8.3 The author would also like to thank Helen Hawkins for her project managing and editing, Mick Steel for the Illustrations and Tom Brooks for his hard work on site.

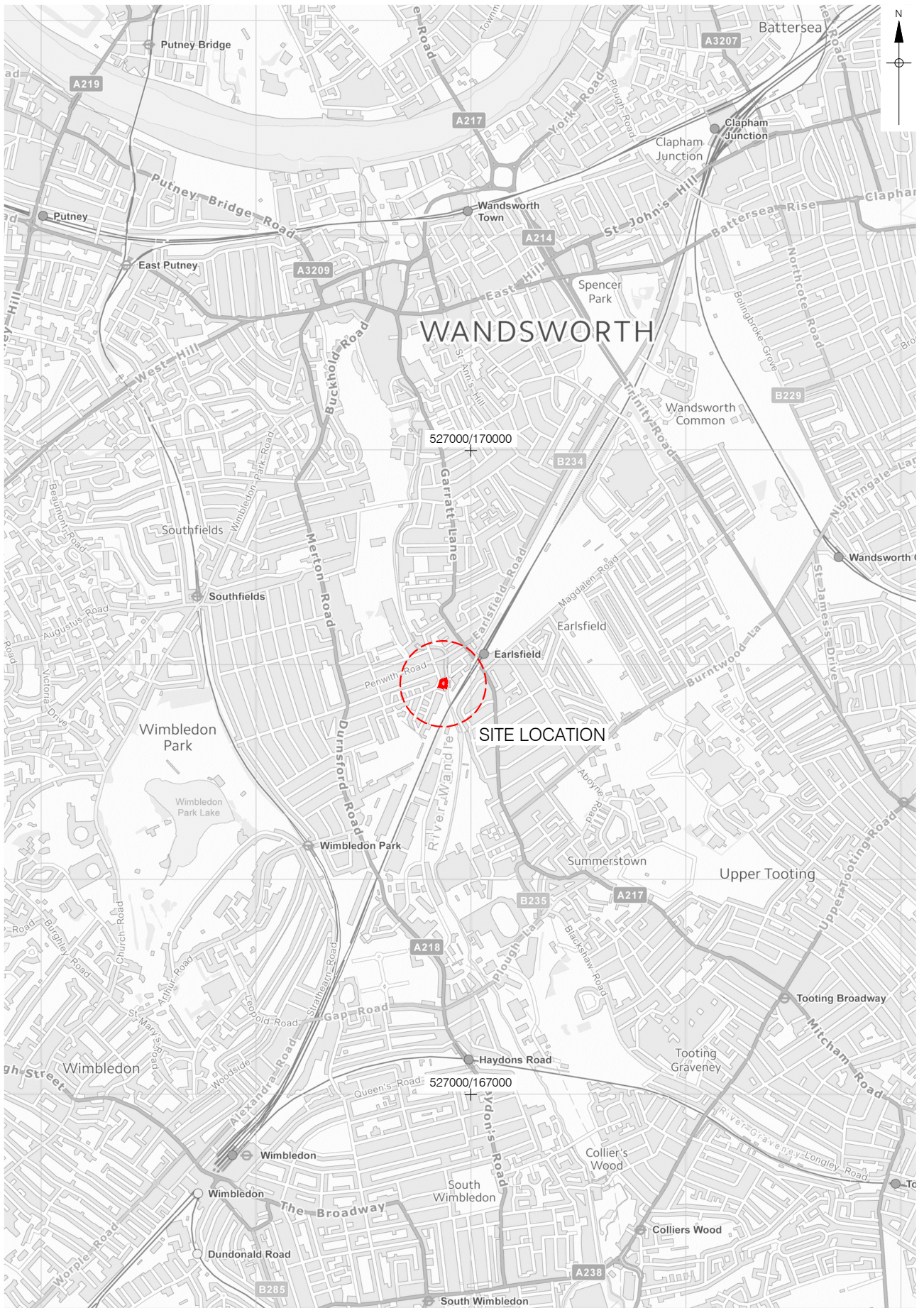
9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

CIfA 2014 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014)

Masefield, R. 2016 *Proposed Development at 12A Ravensbury Terrace, London Borough of Merton: An Archaeological Baseline Appraisal*, unpublished report for RPS

Masefield, R. 2018 *12A Ravensbury Terrace: An Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching*, unpublished report for RPS

Taylor, J with Brown, G 2009, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2018
 10/05/18 MS

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000 at A4

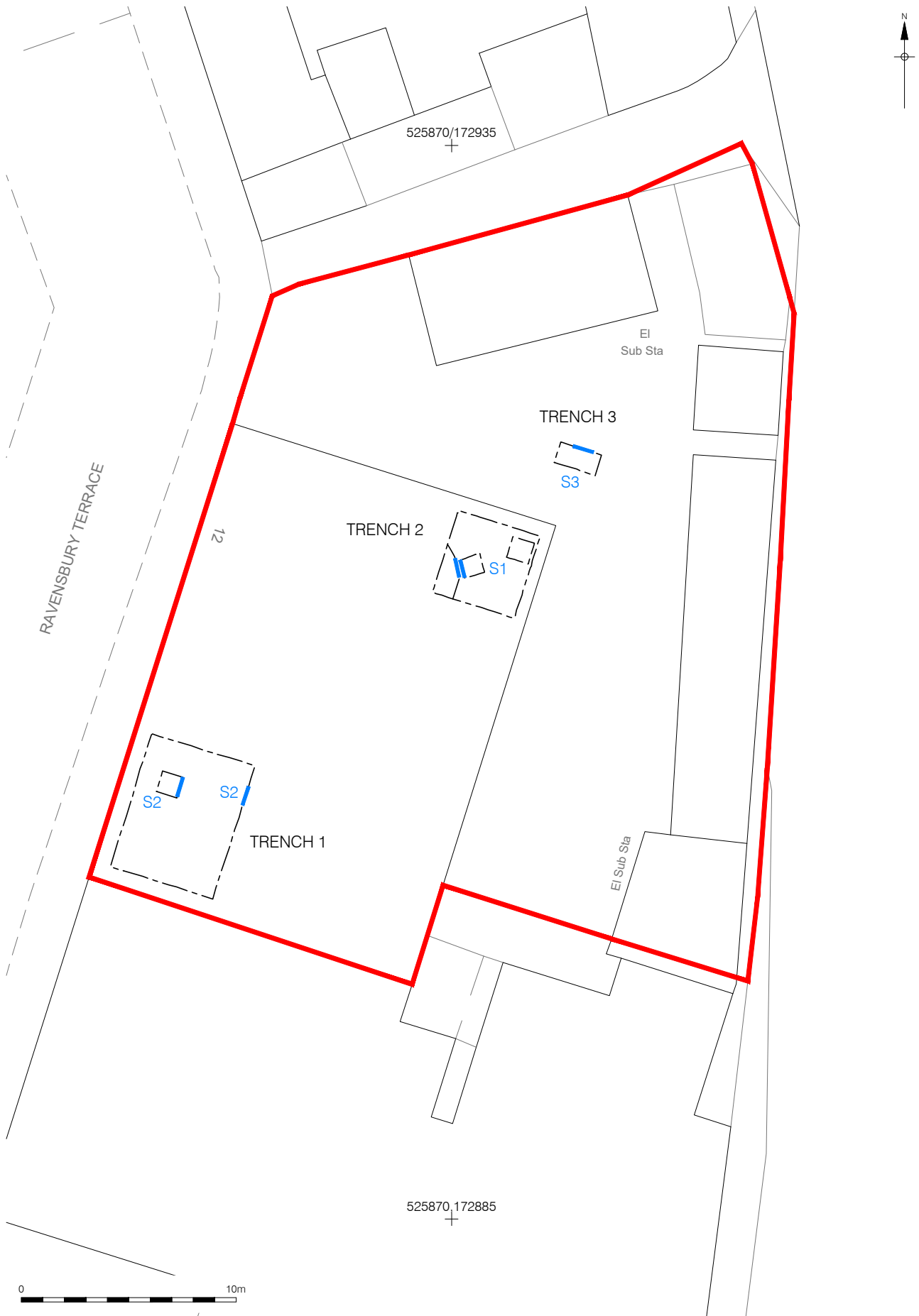
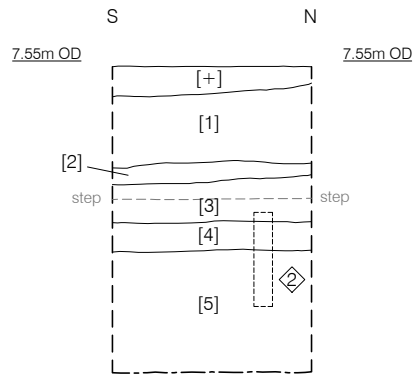
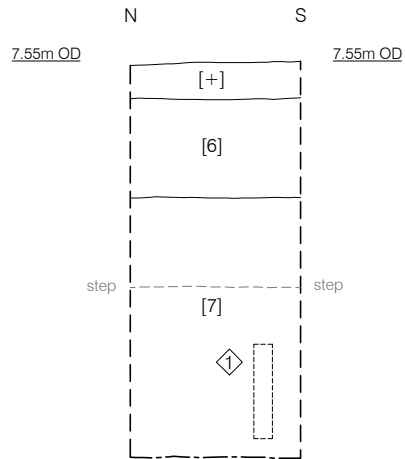


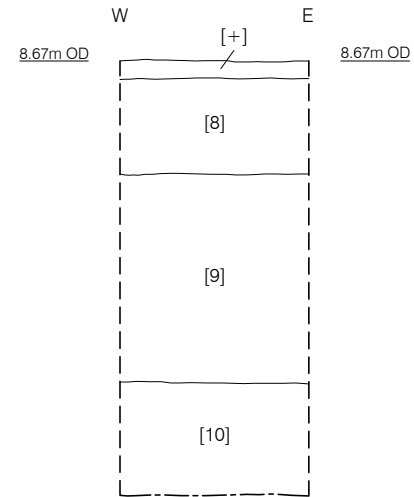
Figure 2
 Trench Locations
 1:250 at A4



Section 1
East Facing
Trench 2



Section 2
West Facing
Trench 1



Section 3
South Facing
Trench 3



Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1, West Facing



Plate 2 Section 2, Trench 1, East Facing



Plate 3 Trench 2, North Facing



Plate 4 Section 1, East Facing

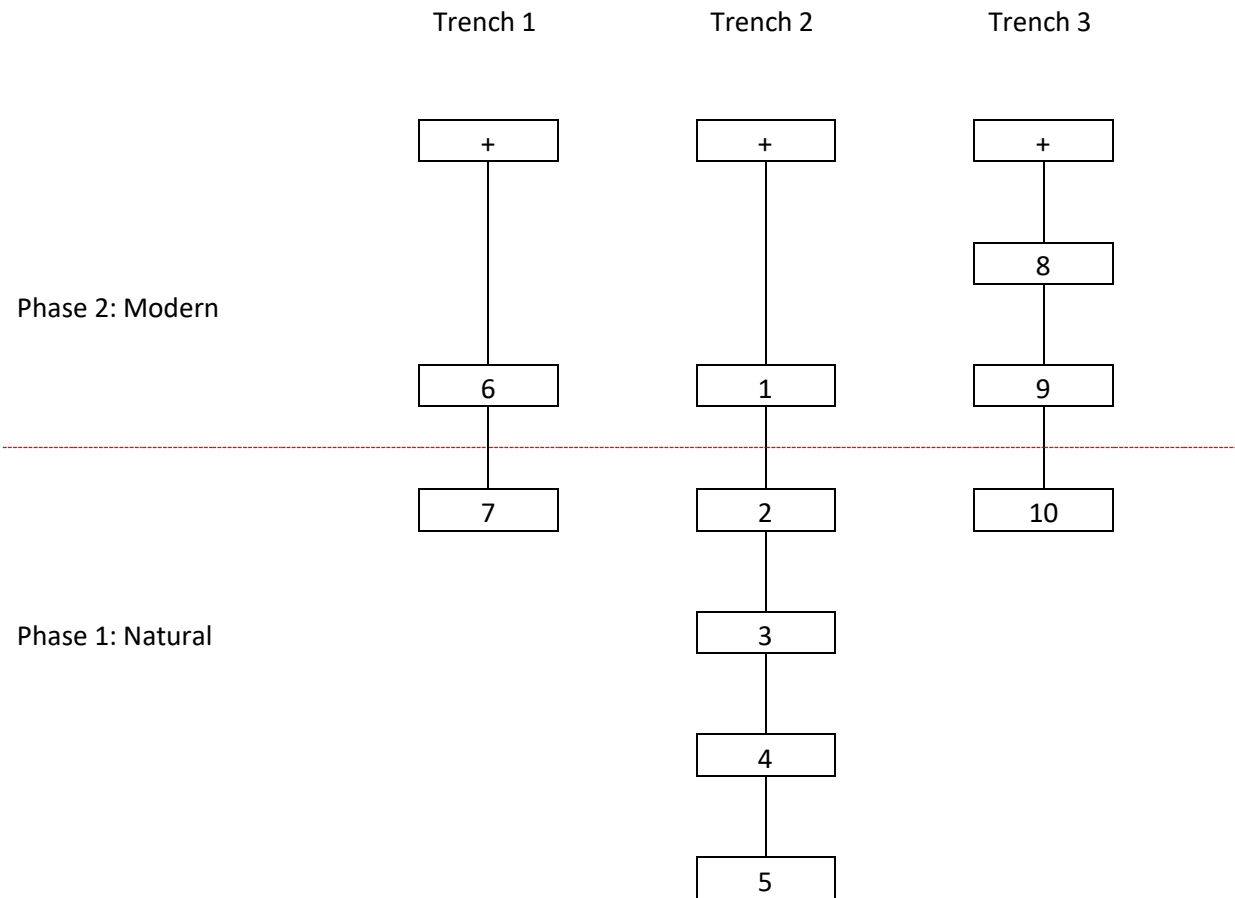


Plate 5 Trench 3, Section 3, South Facing

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site_Code	Context	CTX_Type	Trench	CTX_ Interpretation	CTX_ Category	CTX_ Depth	CTX_ Levels_ high
RVO18	1	Layer	2	Made ground	Make-up	0.4	7.44
RVO18	2	Layer	2	Water formed mid greyish blue clay	Alluvial	0.12	6.98
RVO18	3	Layer	2	Mid greyish brown clay	Alluvial	0.25	6.88
RVO18	4	Layer	2	Dark greyish brown clay	Alluvial	0.15	6.62
RVO18	5	Layer	2	Natural sandy deposits	Natural	0.65	6.55
RVO18	6	Layer	1	Made ground	Make-up	0.52	7.35
RVO18	7	Layer	1	River deposited clay	Alluvial	1.38	6.83
RVO18	8	Layer	3	Made ground	Levelling	0.5	8.57
RVO18	9	Layer	3	Made ground	Make-up	1.1	8.07
RVO18	10	Layer	3	River deposited clay	Alluvial	0.6	6.97

APPENDIX 2: PHASED MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: ANIMAL BONE

Evaluation of animal bone recovered from excavations at 12a Ravensbury Terrace, Earlsfield, Merton (RVO18)

Kevin Rielly, May 2018

Description of the bone

The site lies adjacent to the River Wandle some 150m west of Earlsfield Railway station. It encompassed three trenches, all three providing evidence for modern activity overlying a series of alluvial deposits, these potentially dating to the prehistoric era. A single animal bone was recovered from layer (5) representing the lowest alluvial layer within Trench 2. This bone, forming the major part of a infant/juvenile cattle scapula, is in very good condition. It can be conjectured that this animal was no more than a few months in age.

Conclusions and recommendations

The condition of this single bone undoubtedly suggests that other bones will be recovered (if present) if further work is carried out at this site. Concerning the bone recovered, its age may suggest it represents an infant mortality, perhaps also shown by the lack of butchery marks. However, calf meat can be considered a choice item, thus an alternative explanation is that this animal was culled to provide for a special occasion. It would certainly be beneficial to provide additional parts of this young animal to better determine its usage. Obviously any interpretation will be greatly enhanced by the recovery of dating evidence (beyond a general prehistoric indication)

APPENDIX 4: QUEST REVIEW OF COLUMN SAMPLES

Dr C. R. Batchelor

Initial geoarchaeological inspection of the samples reveals a sequence of clays, silts and sands which in places are organic-rich. The deposits are typical of deposition in a fluvial environment, though the organic-rich units also indicate transitions towards semi-terrestrial conditions. The sequence is considered to have moderate to high palaeoenvironmental potential due to the presence of very well preserved Mollusca together with possible Ostracoda and plant macrofossil remains (wood/charcoal); pollen and diatoms are also highly likely to be present. Recent investigations both upstream (e.g. Christchurch Road; Young & Batchelor, 2015a) and downstream (e.g. Ram Brewery (Young & Batchelor, 2015b), Morganite site (Jarrett et al., 2010), Linton Fuels (Batchelor, 2018)) of Ravensbury Terrace along the course of the Wandle have revealed sequences varying in date from the beginning of the Mesolithic (Christchurch Road) through to the medieval/post-medieval periods (Linton Fuels).

It is recommended that a full geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental assessment of the samples from Ravensbury Terrace is undertaken, consisting of two radiocarbon dates, together with pollen, diatom and macrofossil (seeds, wood, charcoal, insects, Mollusca, Ostracoda). This will determine the chronology of the sequence, and potential of the sequence to provide a detailed reconstruction of the vegetation and hydrological history of the site through further analysis. This work will contribute to our knowledge and understanding of the environmental history of the River Wandle.

Batchelor, C.R. (2018) Linton Fuels, Osiers Road, London Borough of Wandsworth: geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental assessment report. Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) Unpublished Report February 2018; Project Number 085/17

Jarrett, C., Bishop, B.J., Branch, N., Allison, E., **Batchelor, R.**, Green, C. & Pickard, C. (2010) Flints and frying pans: excavations at 11-13 Point Pleasant and the Morganite Works, Wandsworth. *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, **95**: 139-167.

Young, D.S. & Batchelor, C.R. (2015a) *Ram Brewery (Phase 1), Ram Street, London Borough of Wandsworth: environmental archaeological assessment report*. Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) Unpublished Report October 2015; Project Number 098/14

Young, D.S. & Batchelor, C.R. (2015b) 118-120 *Christchurch Road, London Borough of Merton: environmental archaeological assessment report*. Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) Unpublished Report October 2015; Project Number 134/15

APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-317031

Project details

Project name 12A Ravensbury Terrace, Earlsfield, Merton SW18 4RL

Short description of the project This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 12A Ravensbury Terrace, Earlsfield, Merton SW18 4RL. The site was located within the London Borough of Merton and was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 525863 172897. Following the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by RPS (Masefield, 2018), an archaeological evaluation was conducted between 1st and 4th May 2017 in advance of the demolition and construction of the property. Natural river lain deposits of sand (Kempton Park Gravel) were located in the centre of the site, in the north of the basement at around 6.55m OD. The natural sand was overlain by river lain clay deposits which was sealed with made ground underneath the basement. This extended to outside and was further overlain by a brick rubble made ground. The site mainly consisted of river laid deposits which had a number of possible environmental finds, showing a good state of preservation and were sampled for further analysis.

Project dates Start: 01-05-2018 End: 04-05-2018

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes RVO18 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds BONE Uncertain

Methods techniques & "Sample Trenches", "Test Pits"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON 12A
 Ravensbury Terrace, Earlsfield, Merton

Postcode SW18 4RL

Study area 0.1 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 525863 172897 50.934267162151 0.171785755243 50 56 03 N 000
 10 18 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 6.55m Max: 6.62m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation

Project brief RPS Planning
originator

Project design RPS Planning and Development
originator

Project Helen Hawkins
director/manager

Project supervisor Tanya Jones

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of James Laurence Group
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Archive ID RVO18

Physical Contents "Animal Bones"

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive ID RVO18

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
available

Paper recipient Archive LAARC

Paper Archive ID RVO18

Paper Contents "none"

Paper available Media "Context sheet","Plan","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 12A Ravensbury Terrace, Earlsfield, Merton SW18 4RL: An Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Jones, T.

Date 2018

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Place of issue or publication London

Description A4 grey literature report with PCA covers

Entered by archive (archive@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 11 May 2018