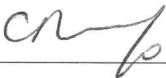
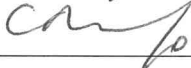


DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND TO THE REAR OF 15 COPSE HILL,
WIMBLEDON, SW20 0NB,
LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the Rear of 15 Cope Hill,
Wimbledon, SW20 0NB, London Borough of Merton**

Site Code: COJ08

National Grid Reference: TQ 2305 7020

Written by Stuart Watson

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, November 2008

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Commissioning Clients: Gateway Project Services Ltd

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November 2008

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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation of land at the rear of 15 Copse Hill, Wimbledon SW20 0NB, London Borough of Merton. The investigation consisted of a single trench excavated within the footprint of the proposed development and the work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology limited in advance of the redevelopment of the site for a single detached residential property. The work was commissioned by Gateway Project Services Limited and was conducted between 14th and 16th October 2008.
- 1.2 The investigation found evidence for natural sandy gravels overlain by a colluvial deposit, sealed by successive layers of sub-soil and garden soil. The layers dated to the post-medieval and modern periods respectively. A system of post-medieval field drains were observed cut into the sub-soil layer. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered on the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at the rear of 15 Copse Hill, Wimbledon SW20 0NB, London Borough of Merton (figure 1). The archaeological investigation consisted of the excavation and recording of a single trench located within the footprint of the proposed new development of a single detached residential property to be constructed on the site (figure 2).
- 2.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted between 14th and 16th October 2008 and the work was commissioned by Gateway Project Services Limited.
- 2.3 The site is located on small vacant plot of land bounded to the north by the rear garden of 15 Copse Hill; to the south by 15D Copse Hill; to the east by Copse Hill Lane and to the west by gardens of 17 Copse Hill. The site was not previously developed and is believed to have been originally part of the rear gardens of 15 Copse Hill, a large residence built in the 1860s. The site covers approximately 450m².
- 2.4 A badger sett, located to the east of the site, was removed and reinstated to the south west corner of the site under the supervision of an ecologist.
- 2.5 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 2305 7020.
- 2.6 The site was allocated the unique site code COJ 08.
- 2.7 The evaluation was supervised by Stuart Watson and project managed by Chris Mayo.

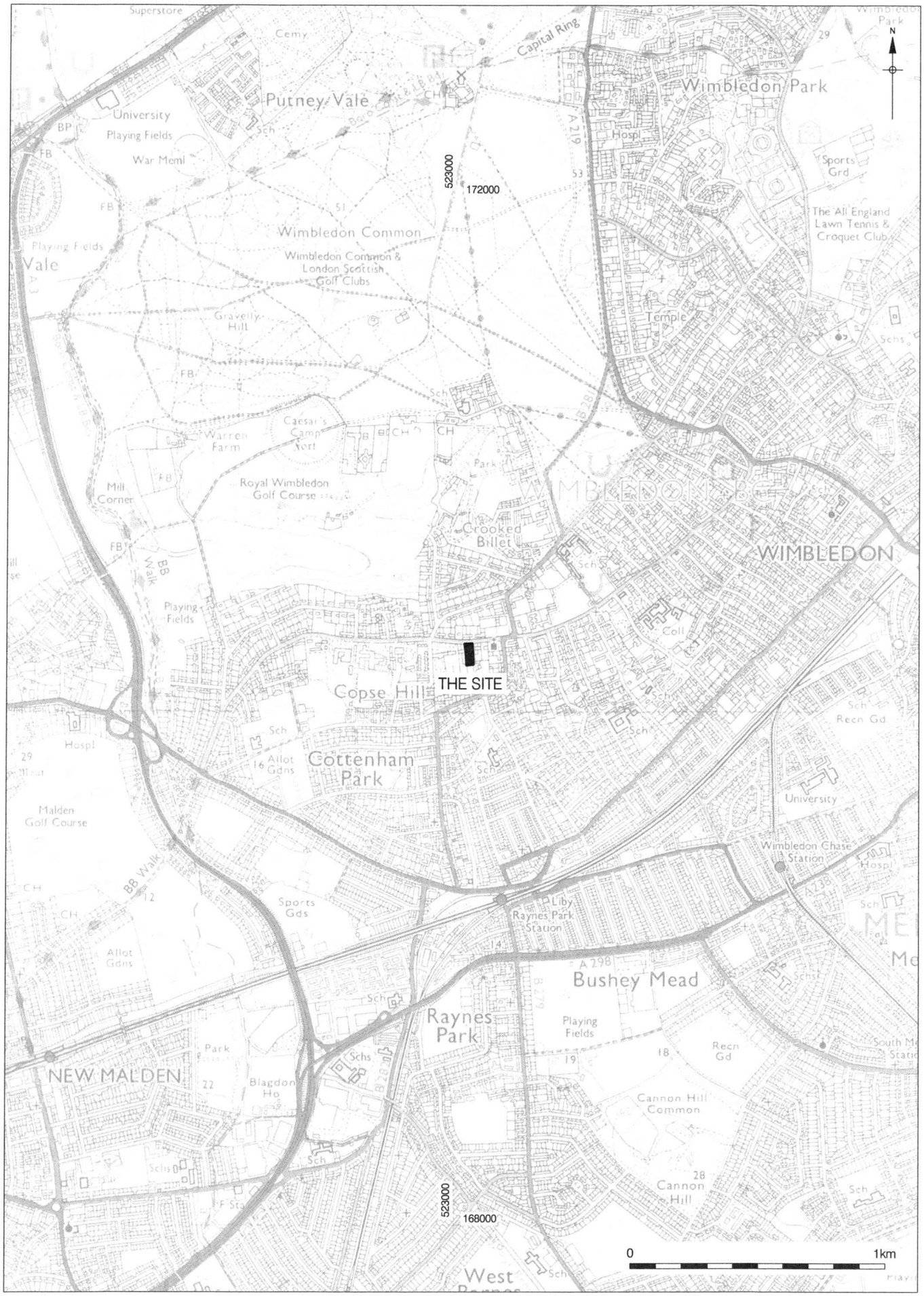


Figure 1
Site Location
1:25,000 at A4



Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The planning background to this site has been outlined in the Method Statement¹ prepared for this site, and as such only a brief summary is included in this section.
- 3.2 The proposed development has been granted full planning permission (No 03/P1899) to which an archaeological condition (Condition 12) was attached, of which the relevant clause is quoted below:
- No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to the applicant in writing and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.*
- 3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation² was submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority, and the archaeological work undertaken as detailed by this report, is in response to that planning condition.
- 3.4 The site lies in an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the London Borough of Merton.
- 3.5 Number 15 Copse Hill, adjacent to the site, is a Grade II Listed Building of historical and architectural interest.
- 3.6 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or close to the site.

¹ Mayo, C. 2008

² *ibid.*

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The name Copse Hill derives from the extensive woodland which covered the area from ancient times. The area has significant historical associations dating to the Domesday Book in which the area around what is now Cottenham Park Road was allegedly referred to as the 'field of the five airs', a name thought to deriving from the breaks in the North and South downs which permitted the free flow of air.
- 4.2 The area of Atkinson Morley fields, to the west of the study site, has survived as open land since the time of the Black Death, where the area is referred to in a document of 1481 as part of 'the wild land...from ancient times, arable but for many years overgrown'.
- 4.3 From the late 18th century the area gradually transformed from rural to semi-rural to suburban, in common with many of the London suburbs at this time.
- 4.4 Historic maps of the study area suggest the site may have survived as an undeveloped rural location longer than the surrounding area, at least until the middle of the 19th century, when the land became incorporated into the grounds of 15 Copse Hill, a large and imposing residence built between 1850 and 1865. The site remained as gardens until the present day³.

³ Information from Copse Hill Conservation Area, undated. <http://www.merton.gov.uk/copse>

5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 British Geological Survey Sheet 270 (South London 1:50 000) identifies the underlying solid geology of the site as being located on a boundary between London Clay and Claygate Beds, which are generally more sandy. The sandy nature of the natural geology encountered on the site would tend to indicate the latter.
- 5.2 The site appears never to have been developed and is lies on the southern flanks of Copse Hill, one of the highest points in the borough at approximately 53.00m OD. The site itself can be typified as generally level within a landscape that slopes gradually down to the south.
- 5.3 The current ground level of the site in the vicinity of the evaluation trenches is at c. 54m OD.

6 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The general aims and objectives of the archaeological investigation at the site are as follows:
- Do archaeological deposits survive on the site?
 - If not, is this due to previous truncation or an absence of historic use of the site?
- 6.2 The specific research objectives of the evaluation are:
- Does evidence for prehistoric activity survive at the site?
 - Is there any evidence for medieval or post-medieval activity or remains?

7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The archaeological evaluation fieldwork was designed to define and record the character, date and extent of any archaeological remains exposed during the excavation of a trial trench prior to the residential development of the site.
- 7.2 The archaeological investigation comprised of a single trench (representing c. 12% of the proposed development area) which measured 11.0m east-west by 1.60m north-south.
- 7.3 The trench was machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued through low grade deposits in spits no greater than 200mm until the natural horizon was attained.
- 7.4 All planning was conducted from a baseline established for the trench.
- 7.5 The trench was planned at a scale of 1:20 and all four sides were drawn in section at a scale of 1:20. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. A photographic record using 35mm colour slide and black and white print film as well as digital format was made.
- 7.6 All levels for the evaluation were calculated from a spot height for the site of 53.9m OD.
- 7.7 The site was assigned the code COJ 08.
- 7.8 The work was undertaken using the single context recording system following English Heritage (GLAAS)⁴, and Institute of Field Archaeologists⁵, guidelines.

⁴ English Heritage GLAAS 1998.

⁵ IFA 1993

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The following description of the stratigraphy details the main characteristics of each context and its position in the phased stratigraphic matrix. Further information regarding the contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

8.2 Trench 1

8.2.1 Trench 1 was located towards the northern side of the site, with its longest axis aligned east-west, and was excavated to a maximum depth of approximately 1.20m below ground level.

8.2.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a naturally deposited very compacted mid yellow brown sandy gravel with darker yellow brown lenses [5], interpreted as Claygate Beds and encountered at 1.20m below ground level at c. 52.7m OD.

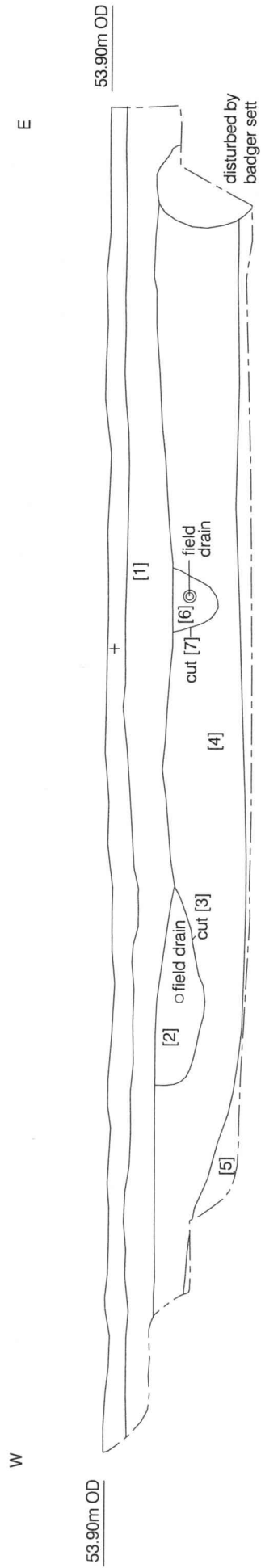
8.2.3 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.60m thick friable mid yellowish brown very fine sandy silt layer [4] encountered at c.0.50m below ground level at c. 53.4m OD. This layer represented a colluvial deposit.

8.2.4 Cut into layer [4], at c. 0.40m below ground level, were two field drain runs aligned north-south. Cuts [11] and [9] were observed in section on the northern side of the trench and their corresponding continuation cuts [7] and [3] on the southern side of the trench.

8.2.5 Sealing layer [4] and the field drain cuts [3], [9], [7] and [11] was [1], a 0.20m to 0.30m thick layer of friable dark greyish brown sandy silt, encountered at c. 0.10m below ground level at c.53.8m OD. Pottery from this layer dated to the late 19th early 20th century and the layer was interpreted a sub-soil deposit.

8.2.6 This in turn was overlain by a 0.10m thick layer of modern garden soil, the top of which formed the current ground level at c. 53.9m OD.

8.2.7 Only archaeological finds or features dating to the late post-medieval /early modern period were observed in any of the above layers.



Section 1
South facing



Figure 3
Section 1
1:50 at A4

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Original research objectives

- 9.1.1 The original research objectives of the investigation are listed below with a summary of the archaeological evidence recovered:
- Do archaeological deposits survive on the site?
 - If not, is this due to previous truncation or an absence of historic use of the site?
- 9.1.2 No archaeological deposits pre-dating the late post-medieval period were encountered on the site. The site was not previously developed and, as evidenced by the presence of agricultural field drains, the land is presumed to have been under cultivation prior to becoming incorporated into the grounds of 15 Copse Hill in the mid to late 19th century. There was no evidence for any deposits pre-dating the mid 19th century and no evidence for truncation on the site.
- Does evidence for prehistoric activity survive at the site?
- 9.1.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed relating to the prehistoric period and therefore this site cannot add to the knowledge of prehistoric activity or settlement of the area.
- Is there any evidence for medieval or post-medieval activity or remains?
- 9.1.4 No evidence for medieval activity was observed in the study area, and only limited evidence for agricultural activity in the post-medieval period was observed.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Gateway Project Services Limited for commissioning the work. The author would also like to thank Lisa Lonsdale and Rob Nicholson for organising the logistics; Chris Jarrett for spot dating of finds; Josephine Brown for the illustrations, Helen Hawkins for editing the report and Chris Mayo for project management.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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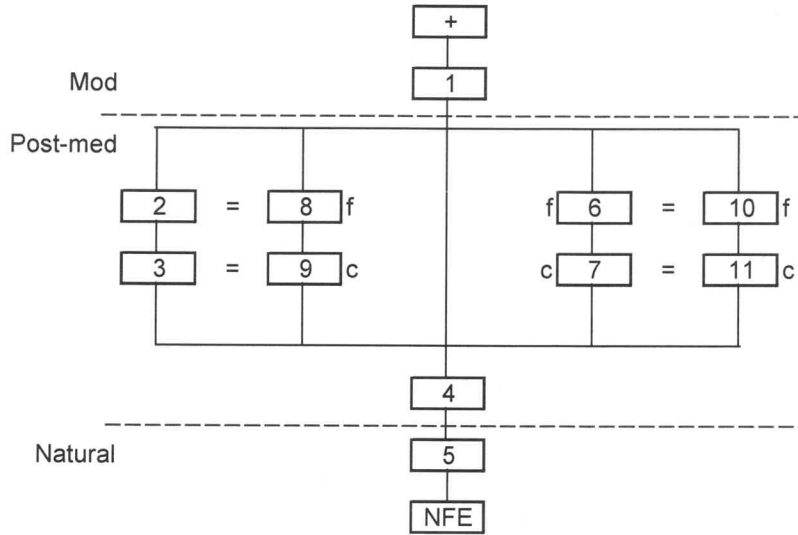
Mayo, C. July 2008. *Method Statement For An Archaeological Evaluation at land to the rear
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan No	Section No.	Type	Description	Date
COJ08	1	TR 1	9	Layer	Layer of sub-soil	Post-med
COJ08	2	TR 1	9	Fill	Of [3] =[8]	Post-med
COJ08	3	TR 1	9	Cut	C/Cut for field drain =[9]	Post-med
COJ08	4	TR 1	1	Layer	Colluvial deposit	
COJ08	5	TR 1	1	Natural	Nat. sandy gravel	
COJ08	6	TR 1	1	Fill	Of [7] =[10]	Post-med
COJ08	7	TR 1	1	Cut	C/Cut of field drain =[11]	Post-med
COJ08	8	TR 1	1	Fill	Of [9] =[2]	Post-med
COJ08	9	TR 1	1	Cut	C/Cut of field drain =[3]	Post med
COJ08	10	TR 1	1	Fill	Of [11]=[6]	Post med
COJ08	11	TR 1	1	Cut	C/Cut of field drain=[7]	Post-med

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX

COJ08



APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land to rear of 15 Copse Hill, Wimbledon, SW20
Short description of the project	One evaluation trench was excavated within the proposed footprint of a new development. Natural sandy gravel was observed at c.1.2m below ground level. Only archaeological deposits from the post-medieval period were observed.
Project dates	Start: 14-10-2008 End: 16-10-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	COJ08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	FIELD DRAINS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY SHERDS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON Land at rear of 15 Copse Hill, Wimbledon
Postcode	SW20 0NB
Study area	16.50 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2305 7020 51.4169395993 -0.230252327074 51 25 00 N 000 13 48 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.00m Max: 1.10m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Stuart Watson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Ceramics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation of land to the rear of 15 Copse Hill, Wimbledon, SW20 0NB, London Borough of Merton
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Watson, S.
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
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Entered on	17 October 2008