

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 33 Monks Park, Wembley, London
Borough of Brent.**

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 1985 8465

**Written and Researched by Elliott Wragg
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
June 2005**

Project Manager: Peter Moore

Commissioning Client: Mount Anvil plc and Ujima Housing Association

Contractor:

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

**Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7732 7896
E-mail: pmoore@pre-construct.com**

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Mount Anvil plc and the Ujima Housing Association on land behind 33 Monks Place, Wembley, London Borough of Brent. (fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 1985 8465. The evaluation was carried out between 23rd and 25th May 2005, and was conducted by a field team from Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 1.2 Five evaluation trenches (Trenches. 1, 2A, 2B, 3 and 4) were excavated across the site to determine the presence and absence of archaeological features, and thereafter to qualify and quantify the nature of the archaeological remains (fig 2).
- 1.3 Natural gravel and brickearth was recorded across the site at a lowest level of 27.65m OD and a highest level of 28.93m OD.
- 1.4 The natural gravel and brickearth was, in places, disturbed by bioturbation and by 20th century allotment features. No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were recovered.
- 1.5 Sealing these features was a layer of garden soil.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., between 23rd and 25th May 2005 on land behind 33 Monks Park, Wembley, London Borough of Brent. (fig 1). The site, is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 1985 8465. The study site was bordered to the east by houses on Monks Place, to the south by houses on Grittleton Avenue, to the west by houses on Chalfont Avenue and to the north by houses on Stonebridge Way.
- 2.2 In accordance with PPG 16 and local policies, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken to assess the nature, extent and date of any surviving archaeological remains, and the potential impact to them by the proposed development by Monk Anvil plc and the Ujima Housing Association.
- 2.3 The evaluation was commissioned by Monk Anvil plc and the Ujima Housing Association and monitored by Kim Stabler, GLAAS, on behalf of the London Borough of Brent. The project was managed by Peter Moore and supervised by the author.
- 2.4 The site was allocated the site code MKP 05.

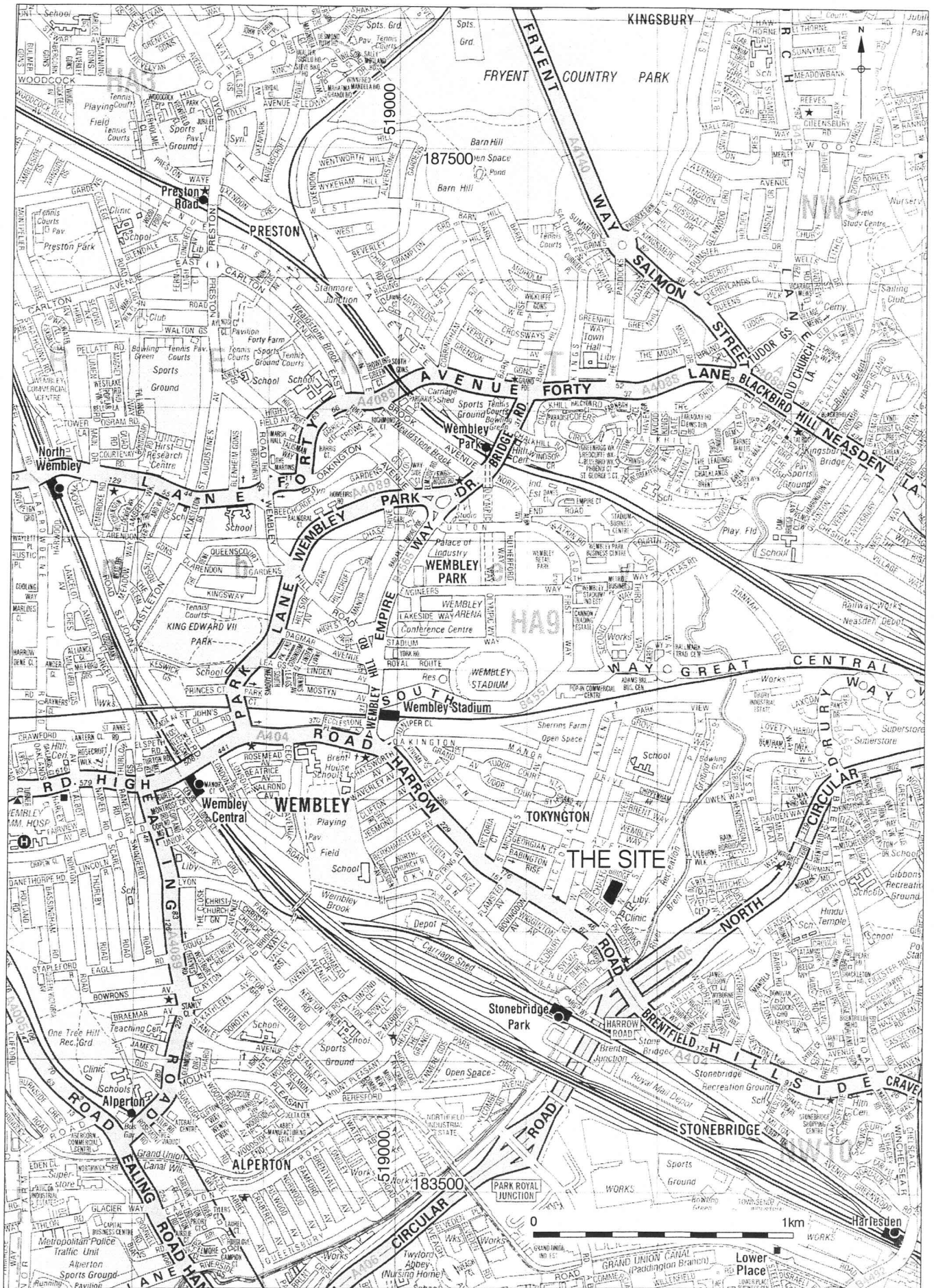


Figure 1
 Site location
 1:20,000

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL, GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

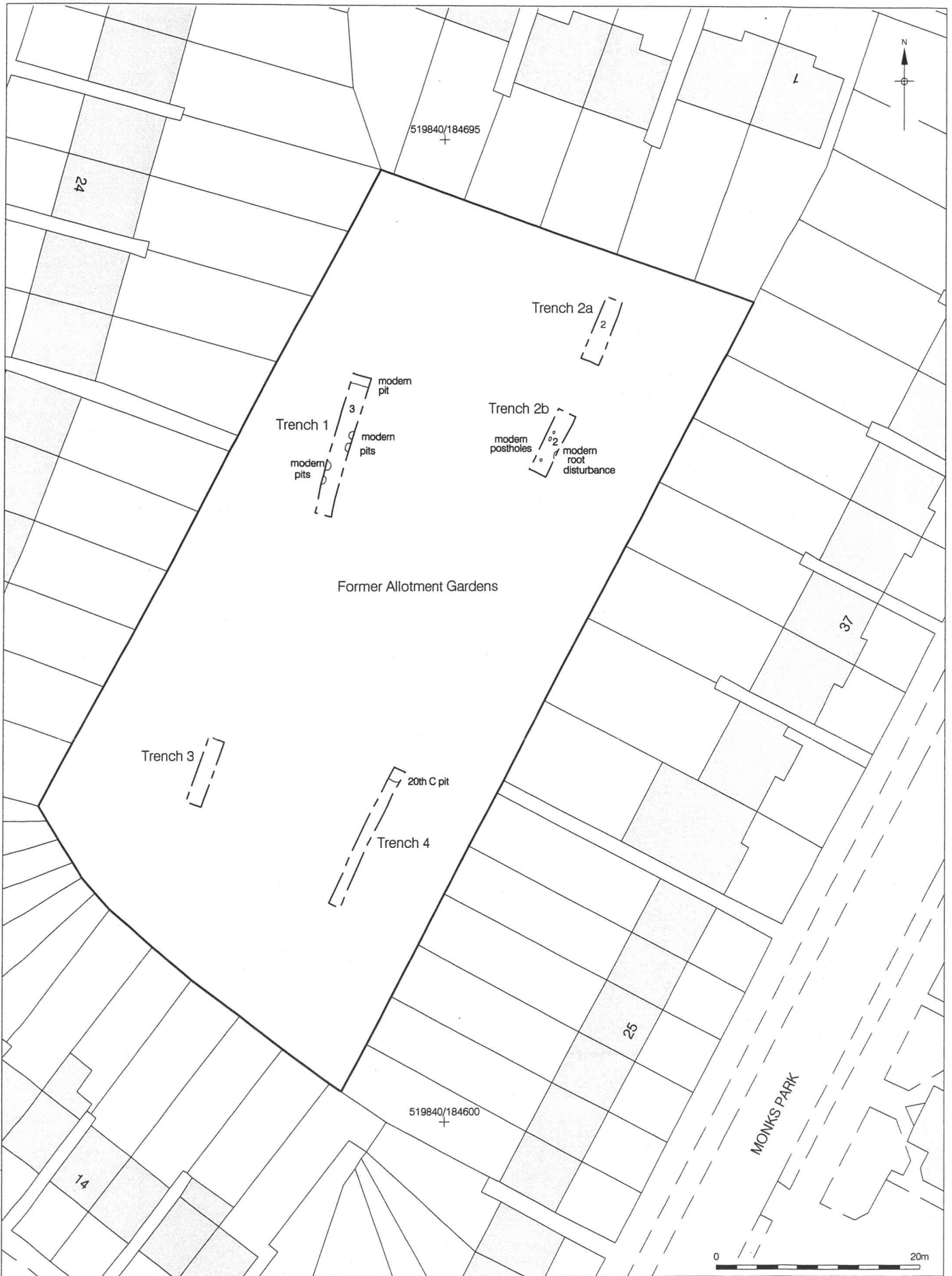
- 3.1 A piece of struck flint was found on the site (SMR Ref. 050429/00/00 – LO 305), although this may have been brought onto site in imported soil.
- 3.2 The site was used as allotments in the 20th century and presently lies fallow.
- 3.3 The site is situated upon river terrace gravels underlying brickearth
- 3.4 The site slopes from approximately 29.30m OD in the west to approximately 28.20m OD in the east down towards the River Brent which flows roughly north-south some 100m to the east.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Four evaluation trenches up to 15m long (Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4) were to be excavated across the site. Due to the presence of a bees' nest in the area of Trench 2 this was split into two (Trench 2A and Trench 2B), thus giving a total of five trenches (fig 2). Due to the absence of archaeological features and deposits on the site and after consultation with Kim Stabler, GLAAS, the last trench to be excavated (Trench 3) was only opened to a length of 6.50m. All trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, in spits, using a toothless bucket until the first archaeological horizon was encountered.

- 4.2 All trenches were planned at 1:50 and recorded on PCA pro-forma context sheets. The locations of the trenches were surveyed by total station theodolite. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in both black and white print and colour slide.

- 4.3 A temporary benchmark with a value of 29.09m OD was established on the site, derived from a benchmark located on number 10 Monks Park which had a value of 26.37m OD.



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500

5 TRENCH DISCUSSION

- 5.1. The lowest deposit encountered across the site was natural gravel and brickearth [2]. This deposit was encountered at a highest level of 28.93m OD in Trench 1 in the north-west of the site, sloping down to a lowest level of 27.65m OD in Trench 4 in the south-east of the site.
- 5.2. The natural gravel and brickearth was slightly disturbed by bioturbation and was cut by a number of 20th century allotment features. The above features and deposits were sealed by a layer of garden soil [1] which had a top height of 29.29m OD in Trench 1 sloping down to 28.09m OD in Trench 4. A post-medieval farthing was recovered from the garden soil in Trench 4. Although the coin was too badly corroded to be dated, the lack of any other cultural material pre-dating the 19th century would suggest that it is of 19th/20th century date.

6 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Natural gravel and brickearth was recorded across the site at a lowest level of 27.65m OD and a highest level of 28.93m OD.
- 6.2 No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were recorded on the site.
- 6.3 In view of the evidence recorded above, it is recommended that no further archaeological work is needed on this site.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. wishes to thank both Mount Anvil plc and the Ujima Housing Association for commissioning and funding the evaluation. Thanks also to Kim Stabler, GLAAS, for her monitoring work.
- 7.2 The author wishes to thank Ashley Pooley for his assistance in the field work, Peter Moore for his project management and report editing, Josephine Brown for the illustrations, Natalie Barret for the surveying, Marit Gaimster for her coin analysis and Lisa Lonsdale for technical support. The author would further like to thank Cameron Robertson of Mount Anvil plc for his on-site support and assistance.

APPENDIX 1- MATRIX

All Trenches



APPENDIX 2 - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Trench	Comments
1	Layer	1, 2A, 2B,3,4	Garden Soil
2	Layer	1, 2A, 2B,3,4	Natural Brickearth

APPENDIX 3 – OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

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OASIS ID: preconst1-8400

Project details

Project name AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT 33 MONKS PARK, WEMBLEY, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken for Mount Anvil plc and the Ujima Housing Association on land behind 33 Monks Place, Wembley, London Borough of Brent. (fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 1985 8465. The evaluation was carried out between 23rd and 25th May 2005, and was conducted by a field team from Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Five evaluation trenches (Trs. 1, 2a, 2b, 3 and 4) were excavated across the site to determine the presence and absence of archaeological features, and thereafter to qualify and quantify the nature of the archaeological remains (fig 2). Natural gravel and brickearth was recorded across the site at a lowest level of 27.65m OD and a highest level of 28.93m OD. The natural gravel and brickearth was, in places, disturbed by bioturbation and by 20th century allotment features.

Project dates Start: 23-05-2005 End: 25-05-2005

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes mkp 05 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 1 - Allotment

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON BRENT WEMBLEY Monks Park, Wembley

Postcode HA9

Study area 3200.00 Square metres

National grid reference TQ 1985 8465 Point

Height OD Min: 27.65m Max: 28.93m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Self (i.e. landowner, developer, etc.)

Project design originator Peter Moore

Project director/manager Peter Moore

Project supervisor Elliott Wragg

Sponsor or funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Local museum

Physical Contents 'other'

Physical Archive Exists? Yes

Digital Archive recipient Local museum

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey','other'

Digital Media available 'Survey','Text'

Digital Archive Exists? Yes

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Diary', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive Exists? Yes

Project bibliography 1

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