Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report: Ealing Common, Ealing, London

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Quality Assurance

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Author	Technical Reviewer	Approved
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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment
01	21.08.18	Edits made following review

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Summary

In July 2018 ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for JSM for groundworks associated with the installation of new telecoms ducting from the North Circular Road (A406) (NGR: TQ 18614 80499), across Ealing Common to The Common (NGR: TQ 18345 80505) as shown on Figure 1.

The cable trench was recorded to pass through Ealing Common which had been part of the common land dating back to the Medieval period and was also recorded to be lie close to previously identified Prehistoric find spots.

No features of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks for the new cable trench within the watching brief area.

Five stray fragments of undiagnostic iron metallic residue (slag) were recovered from the topsoil layer (100) of Trench 1. Undiagnostic slags are small pieces of slag without any diagnostic surface morphology and are often found in large quantities on iron working sites. However whilst indicative of iron working they cannot be used to distinguish between smithing and smelting and dating is restricted to surrounding contexts. Furthermore during the Post-medieval period and early 20th century slags were widely transported away from their sources and dumped.

This small assemblage possibly reflects small scale iron production which could have taken place close to in the nearby area. However the absence of any supporting evidence for metalworking would suggest that the slag was likely deposited there from another source as was common practice during the Post-medieval and Modern periods. Given the very small quantities involved, and the provenance (topsoil of mixed chronological date), retention of this assemblage for long-term curation is not recommended.

The monitoring indicated that the land at the western end of the cable route was previously landscaped. This landscaping involved the deposition of made ground on the subsoil horizon, which resulted in the raising up of the land at this end of the cable route.

A small number of modern services were observed along the trench. All of these related to known services and on the whole did not extensively truncate the natural geology.

The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring may be attributed to the relatively limited development of the Common since the Medieval period and reflects its use as common land or parkland.

These results indicate that the monitoring methodology used was effective in ensuring that the development resulted in no harm to the historic environment resource.

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Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by JSM, and thanks are due in this regard. Fieldwork was carried out by James McNicoll-Norbury. The finds analysis was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared by James McNicoll-Norbury, and checked by Diarmuid O Seaneachain.

1 Introduction

Project Background

1.1.1 In July ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for JSM of groundworks required for a new cable trench on land at Ealing Common. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during groundworks for the works between TQ 18614 80499 to TQ 18345 80505 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The development does not fall within the scope of permitted development schemes specified in Part 16 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. As the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area it was recommended by Historic England that a watching brief should be carried out during intrusive groundworks. A Wayleave Agreement was subsequently issued in March 2018 (K-00025053) by Ealing Council to address archaeological requirements.

1.1.3 The Wayleave Agreement states that the client would be required to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation works under the guidance of a registered organisation with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists as requested by Historic England.

1.1.4 Following email consultation between the client and Ms. Laura O'Gorman, the Historic England Advisor for north-west London in April 2017. It was determined that the proposed works had the potential to impact upon currently unknown buried archaeological remains. It was recommended by Historic England that archaeological monitoring should be carried out during the groundworks in order to identify, assess and record any buried archaeological remains impacted by the development.

1.1.5 ADAS prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to address archaeological requirements of the Wayleave Agreement. The WSI detailed how ADAS would carry out the required archaeological works and record any archaeological remains during the monitoring of the groundworks (ADAS 2018). The WSI was approved by Ms Laura O'Gorman, Historic England Advisor for north-west London.

1.1.6 The fieldwork followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014), *the Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE): *Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

1.1.7 In carrying out this work JSM complied with their obligations to the historic environment, as outlined in the issued Wayleave Agreement.

The Site, Location and Geology

1.1.8 The works comprised the excavation of a cable trench across Ealing Common in London from the North Circular Road (A406) (NGR: TQ 18614 80499), across Ealing Common to The Common (NGR: TQ 18345 80505). The cable trench measured 295 m in length, 0.6 m in width and had a total depth of 1.3 m. The trench was dug through grassland in the central part of the Common (Figures 1-2).

1.1.9 The underlying geology of Ealing Common is recorded as clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation. This sedimentary bedrock was laid down approximately 48-56 million years ago during the Palaeogene Period. Superficial deposits of clay and silt of the Langley Silt Member formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period are recorded (BGS 2018).

2 Objectives

Aims and Scope

2.1.1 The aims of this watching brief were:

- *To ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development area were identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;*
- *To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence were recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard;*
- *The specific aim of the project will be to identify and record any currently unknown buried archaeological remains or artefacts that may be present along the Route and to inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains identified.*
- *To ensure that the fieldwork took place within, and contributes to the goals set out in in A Research Framework for London Archaeology (Nixon et al 2002);*
- *To report the results as appropriate.*

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4 Archaeological and Historical Context

Introduction

4.1.1 A search of the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) was carried out in advance of the preparation of the WSI (ADAS 2018) which assessed the historic environment potential of a 500 m Study Area around the development. The results of this assessment are outlined below. All designated heritage assets are referred to in the text by their Historic England and/or HER reference numbers. Recorded previous archaeological investigations within the 500 m Study Area are referenced by their GLHER Excavation Index number.

4.1.2 The groundworks were located approximately 100 m to the south-east of the Grade II Listed No 6-9 The Common (1358759) and approximately 140 m to the south of the Grade II Listed Milepost (1079385). A further fourteen Grade II Listed Buildings are located over 185 m from the route of the cable trench (National Heritage List 2018). None of these designated heritage assets were impacted by the development.

4.1.3 The groundworks were located in the Mary's Road Archaeological Priority Area (APA) (DLO35872) which covers the Medieval settlement of Ealing. The groundworks were located 408 m to the west of the Creffield Road Archaeological Priority Area (DLO35863) (GLHER 2018). Below is a summary description of the St Mary's Road Archaeological Priority Area.

4.1.4 The St Mary's Road APA covers an area surrounding the moated site of Ealing Manor, the Medieval settlement of Ealing itself and part of Ealing Common. A number of widely spaced Prehistoric finds have been recorded in the area surrounding the Route in Ealing Common, along with one Roman find (GLHER 2018).

4.1.5 The groundworks were located within the Ealing Common Conservation Area. However, due to the temporary duration of the proposed works and since the services will be buried underground, it is considered that the groundworks would not have a harmful impact on the Conservation Area upon the completion of the construction phase (ADAS 2018).

4.1.6 There are fifty-seven non-designated heritage assets recorded by the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER). Sixteen of these correspond with the Grade II Listed Buildings recorded by Historic England within the Study Area (GLHER 2018).

4.1.7 There are eighteen records for Prehistoric findspots within the Study Area. Six of these findspots (MLO11796, MLO13909, MLO1659, MLO432, MLO68433 and MLO8398) are recorded as flint tools which were recovered from either within Ealing Common or within 100 m of the route of the cable trench (GLHER 2018).

4.1.8 The Greater London HER records a Roman flagon (MLO261) 80 m to the north-west of the proposed groundworks. (GLHER 2018).

4.1.9 There are two records for Medieval heritage assets within the Study Area. One of these is for a former building on Elmgrove Road which was demolished in 1894 (MLO68409). This building was located 380 m to the south of the Common (MLO104038) which would have been used for cattle grazing during the period. Although the cable trench route passes through the Common it was considered unlikely that any Medieval settlement remains exist on this parcel of land (ADAS 2018) as it is thought to have been used for cattle grazing at this time (GLHER 2018).

4.1.10 There are thirty-five records for Post-medieval and Modern heritage assets within the Study Area. All of these are related to the Grade II Listed buildings except for No. 10 The Common (MLO103657), Garth House (MLO107139), which are non-designated historic buildings and Warwick Dene Park (MLO104058), which is a public garden located to the south of Ealing Common (GLHER 2018).

4.1.11 An online search of previous archaeological investigations which revealed that there have been no archaeological investigations carried out within the immediate vicinity of the route of the cable trench. However, ten previous archaeological investigations have been carried out in the 500 m Study Area. Struck flints were recovered to the 361 m east of the route of the cable trench during a previous archaeological trial trenching evaluation (ELO13282) (GLHER 2018).

5 Methodology

Introduction

5.1.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation (ADAS 2018). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks to excavate the new cable trench within the watching brief area.

5.1.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological watching brief 2014.*

Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

5.1.3 Five fragments of metallic residue (slag) were recovered from the topsoil (100) during the monitoring. The finds were isolated and were not associated with any deposits, features or areas of burning so no environmental sampling was undertaken. No human remains were encountered during the watching brief.

Post Excavation Analysis

5.1.4 Five stray fragments of undiagnostic iron metallic residue (slag) were recovered from the topsoil layer (100) of Trench 1. The finds are listed in Table 1, Appendix B.

5.1.5 Undiagnostic slags are small pieces of slag without any diagnostic surface morphology and are often found in large quantities on iron working sites. However whilst indicative of iron working they cannot be used to distinguish between smithing and smelting and dating is restricted to surrounding contexts. Furthermore during the Post-medieval period and early 20th century slags were widely transported away from their sources and dumped. Given the absence of any obvious sources of the slag it is likely that these finds represent part of a dumped deposit (Historic England 2015).

Archives and Deposition

5.1.5 The archive is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park. The five fragments of slag recovered during the monitoring have been assessed and are of limited value. Subject to the agreement of the local authority archaeologist and the Museum of London it is recommended that they should be discarded.

5.1.6 A paper or digital archive will be deposited with *the Museum of London* within six months of the completion of the fieldwork under an accession number which will be issued upon deposition. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS database of archaeological projects in Britain. An OASIS form, ID reference adasuklt1-319763 has been provisionally completed and will be submitted at the time of completion.

ADAS Project Team

5.1.7 Fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury. Finds analysis and reporting was undertaking by James McNicoll-Norbury. The archaeological monitoring report was written by James McNicoll-Norbury. The illustrations were prepared by James McNicoll-Norbury. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by James McNicoll-Norbury. The project was managed for ADAS by Diarmuid O Seaneachain.

6 Results

6.1.1 This section provides an overview of the monitoring results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendix A.

6.1.2 The watching brief area followed the cable trench for the new underground cables (Figure 2; Plates 1-7). The ground works consisted of the trench being dug using a mechanical excavator with a flat bladed bucket to a depth of 1.30 m under constant archaeological supervision. The works were completed over ten days (Monday 2nd to Friday 13th July 2018). The weather was dry and very hot (Plates 1 - 7).

Trench 1 (The Cable Trench)

6.1.3 The cable trench measured 295 m in length by 0.60 m in width and was up to 1.3 m deep. The topsoil (100) was approximately 0.1 m deep and consisted of dark brown grey clayey silt. At the western end of the trench this overlay up to 0.8 m of made ground comprised of brick rubble and crushed concrete (101). The made ground extended for 43 m from the western end and coincided with an uneven section of the Common which indicated that a degree of levelling had previously taken place.

6.1.4 The made ground was found to overlay a light brown sandy clay subsoil measuring up to 0.4 m thick (102) which in turn sealed natural clays (103) at the base of the trench.

6.1.5 A small number of disused land drains were observed in the trench section associated with Post-medieval and Modern drainage of the Common. A number of modern services which did not extensively truncate the natural geology were also observed in the trench section (Plate 5 and 6).

6.1.6 Five fragments of undiagnostic iron metallic residue (slag) were recovered from the topsoil layer (100) of the trench (Figure 2) (Appendix B).

7 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1.1 No features of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks for the new cable trench within the watching brief area.

7.1.2 Five stray fragments of undiagnostic iron metallic residue (slag) were recovered from the topsoil layer (100) of Trench 1. Undiagnostic slags are small pieces of slag without any diagnostic surface morphology and are often found in large quantities on iron working sites. However whilst indicative of iron working they cannot be used to distinguish between smithing and smelting and dating is restricted to surrounding contexts. Furthermore during the Post-medieval period and early 20th century slags were widely transported away from their sources and dumped.

7.1.3 This small assemblage possibly reflects small scale iron production which could have taken place in the nearby area. However the absence of any supporting evidence for metalworking would suggest that the slag was likely deposited there from another source as was common practice during the Post-medieval and Modern periods. Given the very small quantities involved, and the provenance (topsoil of mixed chronological date), retention of this assemblage for long-term curation is not recommended.

7.1.4 The monitoring indicated that the land at the western end of the cable route was previously landscaped. This landscaping involved the deposition of made ground on the subsoil horizon, which resulted in the raising up of the land at this end of the cable route.

7.1.5 A small number of modern services were observed along the trench. All of these related to known services and on the whole did not extensively truncate the natural geology.

7.1.6 The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring may be attributed to the relatively limited development of the Common since the Medieval period and reflects its use as common land or parkland.

7.1.7 These results indicate that the monitoring methodology used was effective in ensuring that the development resulted in no harm to the historic environment resource.

8 References

ADAS 2018 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Ealing Common, Ealing London, W5 3NH. ADAS Oxford

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GLHER 2018 Available at: http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx [accessed August 2018].

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Museum of London 2009, *General Standards for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives Deposited with the Museum of London.* Available at http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections/other-collection-databases-and-libraries/museum-london-archaeological-archive/archaeological-research-resources [accessed August 2018].

Online Resources

(BGS 2018) British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at: http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html [accessed August 2018].

Google Maps 2018. Available at: https://www.google.co.uk [accessed August 2018].

Heritage Gateway 2018 Available at: http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx [accessed August 2018].

Appendix A Context Descriptions

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ Thickness (m)
100	Deposit	Topsoil comprised of brown silt	295.0	0.60	0.10
101	Deposit	Made ground comprised of crushed concrete, gravels and silt	40.0	0.60	0.80
102	Deposit	Subsoil comprised of light brown grey silt	275.0	0.60	0.22-0.40
103	Deposit	Natural geology comprised of clays	295.0	0.60	0.35-1.30

Appendix 3 The Finds

Five stray fragments of undiagnostic iron metallic residue (slag) were recovered from the topsoil layer (100) of Trench 1. Finds are listed by material type in Table 1 below. Undiagnostic slags are small pieces of slag without any diagnostic surface morphology and are often found in large quantities on iron working sites. However whilst indicative of iron working they cannot be used to distinguish between smithing and smelting and dating is restricted to surrounding contexts. Furthermore during the Post-medieval period and early 20th century slags were widely transported away from their sources and dumped (Historic England 2015). Given the absence of any obvious sources of the slag it is likely that these finds represent a dumped deposit.

Table 1: All finds by context

Context	Material Type	Description	No.	Weight (g)	Date
100	Deposit	Undiagnostic iron slags located in the topsoil.	5	176	N/A

POTENTIAL AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

This is a very small assemblage of undiagnostic slag, which has a correspondingly limited potential to contribute further to an understanding of the site beyond what has already been recorded in terms of the range of types and their potential chronology.

Data has been collected to an appropriate archive level, and no further analysis or publication is warranted.

Given the very small quantities involved, and the provenance (topsoil deposit of mixed chronological date), retention of this assemblage for long-term curation is not recommended.

REFERENCES

Historic England 2015 Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for Best Practice

Appendix C: Oasis Report Form

OASIS ID: adasuklt1-319763

Project details

Project name Ealing Common Cable Trench

Short description of the project The project comprised archaeological monitoring of a new cable trench through Ealing Common (an archaeological priority area) from The Common to A406. The monitoring did not reveal any archaeological deposits along the length of the cable route.

Project dates Start: 02-07-2018 End: 13-07-2018

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes EAL18 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Woodland 6 - Parkland

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Wayleave Agreement

Project location

CountryEngland

Site location GREATER LONDON EALING EALING Ealing Common Cable Trench

Study area 100 Square metres

Site coordinates Point TQ 18500 80513 51.510609812405 -0.292202624159 51 30 38 N 000 17 31 W

Height OD / Depth Min: 32m Max: 34m

Project creators

Name of Organisation ADAS

Project brief originator ADAS

Project design originator Diarmuid O Seaneachain

Project director/manager Diarmuid O Seaneachain

Project supervisor James McNicoll-Norbury

Type of sponsor/funding body Electricity Authority/Company

Name of sponsor/funding body JSM

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London

Digital Contents ''none''

Digital Media available ''Images raster / digital photography'',''Spreadsheets'',''Text''

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Contents ''none''

Paper Media available ''Context sheet'',''Map'',''Report'',''Unpublished Text''

JSM

Ealing Common, Ealing, London

Figure 1: Site Location

Trench 1: Cable Trench

Drawn by: James McNicoll-Norbury Date: 15.08.2018

Verified by: Diarmuid O Seaneachain Date: 15.08.2018

N
W E
S

0 100 200 300 400 500

Metres

Scale 1:10,000 at A3 size

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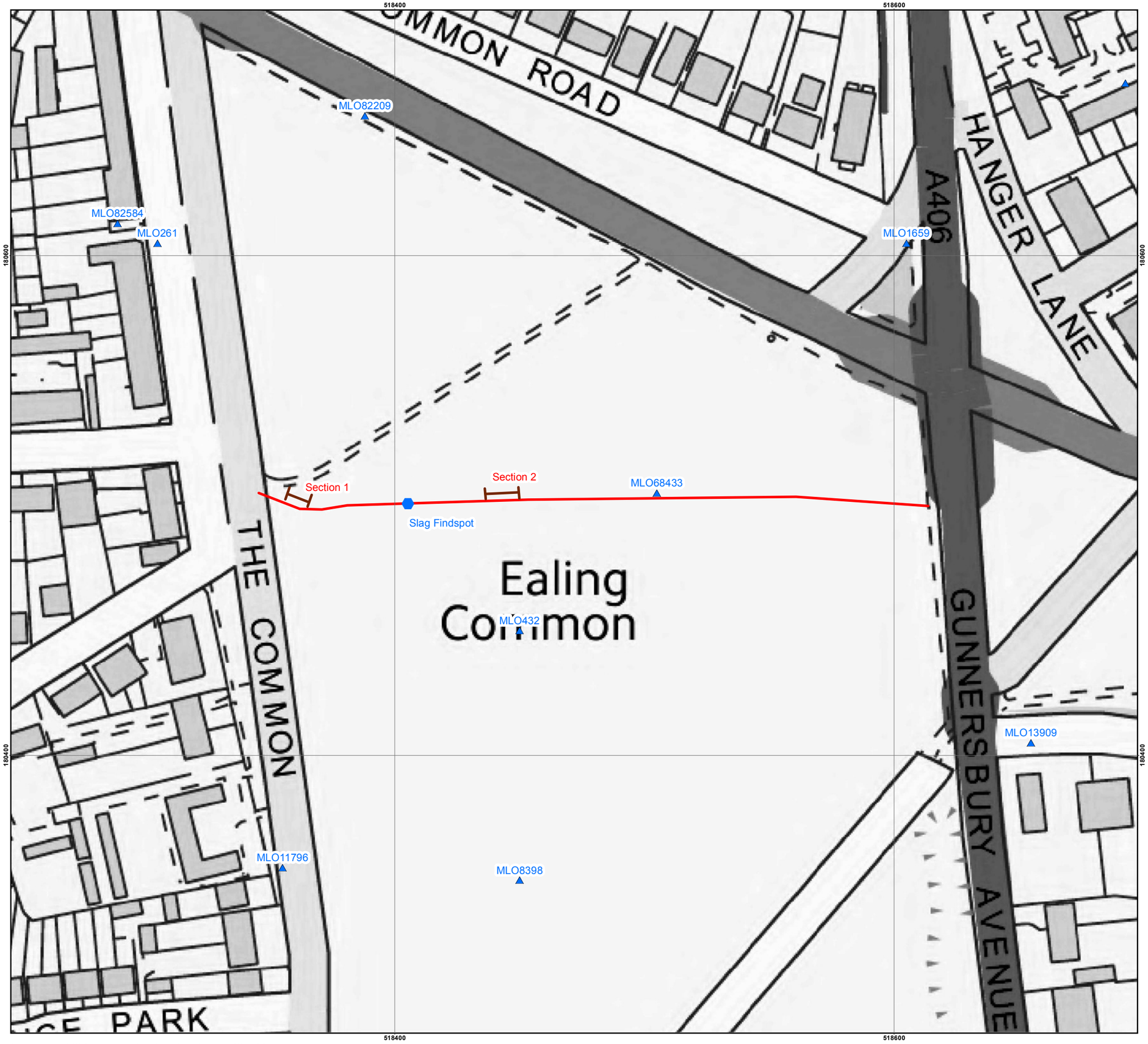

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Ealing Common, Ealing, London

Figure 2: Location of the Groundworks

- Trench 1: Cable Trench
- Section
- HER Heritage Asset Point
- Findspot

Drawn by: James McNicoll-Norbury Date: 14.08.2018

Verified by: Diarmuid O Seaneachain Date: 14.08.2018

N W E S

0 20 40 60 80 100

Metres

Scale 1:1,500 at A3 size

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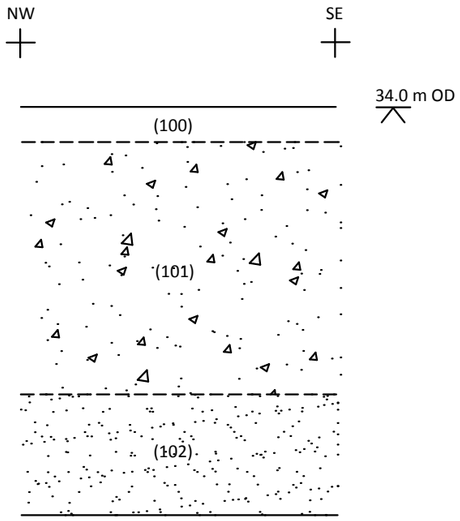
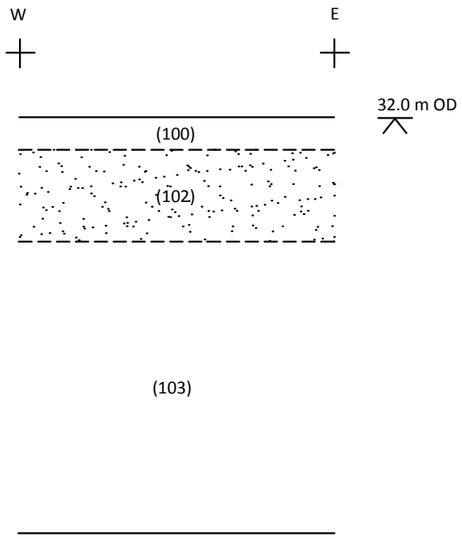


Section 1: North-east facing section of the western part of the Cable Trench

Plate 1: North-east facing section of the western part of the Cable Trench



Section 2: South facing section the central part of the Cable Trench

Plate 2: South facing section of the central part of the Cable Trench

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Ealing Common, Ealing, London

Figure 3: Representative Sections

Legend

Made Ground

Drawn by: James McNicoll-Norbury Date: 15/08/2018

Checked by: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 15/08/2018

0 1m

1:10

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Plates

Plate 1: North-east facing section of the western part of the Cable Trench.

Plate 2: South facing section of the central part of the Cable Trench.

Plate 3: View of Ealing Common from the western end of the Cable Trench.

Plate 4: View of the Cable Trench from the western end.

Plate 5: View of modern service pipes observed in the Cable Trench in the approximate location of findspot (MLO68433), looking east.

Plate 6: General view of the Cable Trench near the eastern end being excavated, looking east.

Plate 7: North facing section of the Cable Trench at the eastern end of the Trench, looking south.