

Desk-top Archaeological Assessment

**LAND BETWEEN 96-126 & 128-162 MELODY ROAD,
WANDSWORTH, SW 18 2QG**



National Grid Reference: TQ 526352 174399

December 2013

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WANDSWORTH, SW18 2QG**

London Borough of Wandsworth

on behalf of Viridian Housing

National Grid Reference
TQ 526352 174399

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SUMMARY

This desk-top assessment has been commissioned from Isambard Archaeology by Churchill Hui on behalf of Viridian Housing, the owners of the site, to support a planning application for the proposed redevelopment of land between nos. 96-126 and nos. 128-162 Melody Road, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2QG. The site lies in an Archaeological Priority Area as designated in the London Borough of Wandsworth's Development Management Policies Document. This desk-top assessment summarises the heritage assets and their significance within the study area, the impacts of historic land use on those assets and the impact which the proposed development will have on them.

For most of its history the proposed development site lay in open fields. Cartographic evidence shows that the site was first developed at the end of the 19th Century with terraced housing. Following the Second World War pre-fabricated housing was built, being replaced with a car park, its current use.

A review of the existing information has identified both designated and undesignated heritage assets within the study area. Generally these comprise stray, isolated finds dating to the prehistoric period and listed structures – buildings, tombs and street furniture – dating to the post Medieval period.

The significance of these heritage assets range from low for the locally listed buildings and buried archaeological remains to high for the listed buildings, Archaeological Priority Area and Conservation Area. It is unlikely however, that the proposed development will have any impact on the significance of these heritage assets.

Based on the archaeological and cartographic evidence there is thought to be a low to medium probability of finding any prehistoric remains; and a low probability of finding Roman or post-Medieval remains on the site.

Due to truncation of the site from earlier and the current development, the site is thought not to contain any archaeological deposits of importance which should be preserved *in situ*, however, the final decision rests with the London Borough of Wandsworth as the local planning authority, taking advice from their nominated archaeological advisors, English Heritage.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

This archaeological desk-top assessment has been undertaken as part of the redevelopment proposals for the land located between nos. 96-126 and nos. 128-162 Melody Road, Wandsworth, SW18 2QG. A planning application is to be submitted which involves the redevelopment of the existing car park with 9 residential units and associated landscaping and car parking.

The assessment was commissioned by Anna Wallace of Churchill Hui on behalf of Viridian Housing, the owners of the site.

1.2 Aims and objectives

This assessment supports the planning application by:

- Establishing the presence or otherwise of any identified heritage assets;
- Assessing the likely impact of previous development on any identified heritage assets;
- Assessing the impact which the proposed development may have on any identified heritage assets; and
- Proposing research questions to inform any future mitigation strategy for the protection of any identified heritage assets.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

This assessment follows the guidelines established by English Heritage (1998) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001).

A visit was made to Wandsworth's Heritage Service at Battersea Library, Lavender Hill, London, SW11 1JB. Historical and geological maps and plans were consulted along with aerial photographs, books, reports, property deeds and parish records.

Reports of previous archaeological work in the study area (defined as a distance of 500m from the centre of the site) and which are within the London Borough of Wandsworth, held by English Heritage's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service were consulted. These included: desk top assessments; and reports on watching briefs, evaluations; and excavations.

A print out was obtained from English Heritage's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service of all entries held on the Historic Environment Record within a distance of 500m from the centre of the site, taken to be TQ 526352 174399 so as to be able to determine the nature and extent of known archaeological remains in the study area.

A site visit was made and photographs taken to illustrate the current land use and site layout.

Sources used within this report are listed in the bibliography.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGY AND PLANNING

3.1 National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published by the Government in March 2012. It replaced national policy relating to heritage and archaeology (Planning Policy

Statement 5: Archaeology and Planning). Section 12 *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* contains guidance to local authorities, developers, property owners and other stakeholders on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. The key paragraphs are:

- 128: *In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation;*
- 135: *The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset;*
- 139: *Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets; and*
- 141: *Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.*

In the NPPF the following definitions are used:

- *Heritage assets:* A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
- *Archaeological interest:* There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.
- *Designated heritage assets:* A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.
- *Significance:* The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence but also from its setting.
- *Setting of a heritage asset:* The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced.

Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

3.2 Regional Policy

The London Plan contains overarching policies for the Greater London area (GLA, 2011). Policy 7.8 relates to heritage assets and archaeology:

Strategic

A. London's heritage assets and historic environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.

B. Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

Planning decisions

C. Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.

D. Development affecting heritage assets and their settings should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

E. New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.

LDF preparation

F. Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.

G. Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

3.3 Local Policy

At a local level heritage and archaeology are considered in the London Borough of Wandsworth's Development Management Policies Document (adopted February 2012). The overarching policy which covers both above ground and below ground heritage assets is Policy DSM2 *Managing the Historic Environment*. The section which is relevant to below ground archaeology is:

d. Proposals for development involving ground disturbance in Archaeological Priority Areas (as identified on the proposals map), will need to be assessed and may be required to be accompanied by an archaeological evaluation report. The recording and publication of results will be required and in appropriate cases, the Council may also require preservation in situ, or excavation.

In their DMPD Wandsworth have identified the following designated and undesignated heritage assets:

Heritage Asset	Designated	Undesignated
Listed buildings	✓	
Locally listed buildings		✓
Buildings in conservation areas	✓	
War memorials	✓	✓
Historic parks and gardens	✓	
Locally registered parks and gardens		✓
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	✓	
Archaeological Priority Areas		
Any other building, monument, site place area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance warranting consideration in planning decisions		✓

Table 1. Heritage assets as defined in Wandsworth’s DMPD (2012).

The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined on Wandsworth’s DMPD Proposals Map. An APA is a designated heritage asset and as such an archaeological desk-top study is required to support any planning application involving redevelopment within its boundary and that such a study should outline the impact of the development on any potential heritage assets.

3.4 Assessing Significance

Current national guidance for the assessment of the significance of heritage assets is based on criteria provided by English Heritage in the document *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2008). Within this document significance is weighed by consideration of the potential for the asset to demonstrate the following value criteria:

- *Evidential value* derives from the potential of the physical remains to yield evidence of past human activity;
- *Historical value* derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present;
- *Aesthetic value* derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- *Communal value* derives from the meanings of a heritage asset for the people who know about it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory; communal values are closely bound up with historical, particularly associative, and aesthetic values, along with and educational, social or economic values.

The significance of heritage assets is summarised in the table below:

Significance	Factors determining significance
International/very high	World Heritage Site Assets of recognised international importance Assets that contribute to international research objectives
National/high	Scheduled Ancient Monuments Grade I and II* Listed Buildings Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens Conservation Areas Undesignated assets of the quality and importance to be designated Assets that contribute to national research agendas
Regional/medium	Grade II Listed Buildings Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens Assets that contribute to national research agendas
Local/low	Locally listed buildings Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor contextual associations Assets with importance to local interest groups Assets that contribute to local research objectives
Negligible	Assets with little or no archaeological/historical interest
Unknown	The importance of the asset has not been ascertained from available evidence

Table 2. Significance of heritage assets.

4.0 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Site Location

The site is located on land between nos. 96-126 and nos. 128-162 Melody Road, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2QG. The site is currently a car park being bounded to the north by nos. 96-126 Melody Road, to the east by Melody Road, to the south by nos. 128-162 Melody Road and to the west by Geraldine Road (figure 1).

The site covers an area of circa 1,667m² and measures circa 54 by 36 metres at its widest point.

The centre of the site is at TQ 526352 174399.

The River Wandle is circa 680m to the west and the River Thames circa 1.1 km to the north.

4.2 Geology

Sheet 270 from the British Geological Survey shows the site lying on river terrace deposits overlying London Clay (BGS, 1991).

A geotechnical investigation has been commissioned, however, the results were unavailable for inclusion in this assessment.

4.3 Topography

According to spot heights on the OS plan (figure 1) the site lies between 22.4m OD in the north east and 22.6m OD in the south west.

5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

The potential for finding archaeological activity on a site and its surrounding area is determined by a number of factors. For the earliest period, the prehistoric, there is no documentary

evidence to help determine the previous use. Instead the archaeological record, particularly other sites with similar geological, topographical and hydrological characteristics, can be used to determine the potential for any archaeological remains.

The appearance of maps and documents can help trace the historical development of a site and its surrounding area. Maps can trace the topography as well as the building, demolition and alteration of settlement indicating changes in ownership, fashion, affluence and politics.

Likewise documents can be used to trace the changing development and fortunes of a site and its surrounding environment. Past owners, the value of the land, its use (whether for agriculture, uncultivated or developed *etc.*) can be ascertained all of which can be used as supporting evidence for the historical maps.

It is therefore essential to examine the archaeological record as well as the historic maps and documents in order to build up as comprehensive a picture as possible.

5.2 Greater London Historic Environment Record

An important source of designated and non-designated heritage assets is the Historic Environment Record (HER), a database of archaeological sites, scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings and aerial photographs in Greater London, held by English Heritage. A print out of all entries held on the HER was obtained for an area of c.1km² with the proposed development site at its centre, at Ordnance Survey grid reference TQ 526352 174399 (figure 3 and table 4).

The HER print out shows that there are 50 records within 500m of the site broken down into: two from the prehistoric period; 11 from the Palaeolithic period; three from the Mesolithic period; four from the Neolithic period; one from the Iron Age; three from the Roman period; 23 from the post-Medieval period (including 15 listed buildings); one unassigned; and two which produced negative results.

Prehistoric (500,000 BC – AD 43)

Evidence for Prehistoric activity can be ambiguous due to its age. Fieldwork in the study area has identified three features, possibly hollows, in 2005, 400m to the north of the site in East Hill [1] and a possible worked flint 480m to the west of the site in Malva Close [16].

Palaeolithic (500,000 BC – 10,001 BC)

During the late 19th Century and early 20th Century a lithic working site was discovered in St Ann's Hill 360m to the south west of the site [2]. Comprising of over 3,000 finds there were examples of axes, scrapers, flakes and borers of Acheulian and le Moustier type.

Further flint implements have been found in the study area. Handaxes have been found at the Bramblebury Estate 240m to the north of the site [19] and [20]; Allfarthing Lane 310 m to the south west of the site [21]; East Hill 420m to the north of the site [22]; and The Grove 370m to the south west of the site [23].

Flakes have been found in the Bramblebury Estate [18]; the Davies Estate 440m to the east of the site [24]; and Spencer Park 410m to the east of the site [26]. A scraper was found in Geraldine Road 210m to the north west of the site [17].

A small assemblage of tools were found in St Ann's Hill 360m to the west of the site

comprising of flaxes, a hammerstone and a handaxe [25]. It is possible that they were manufactured nearby.

Mesolithic (10,001 – 4001 BC)

Finds from the Mesolithic are confined to an axe found at the Brambebury Estate [27] and two flakes or blades found at two different sites in St Ann's Hill approximately 370m to the west of the site in St Ann's Hill [28] and [29].

Neolithic (4,000 – 2201 BC)

A small assemblage of tools including a ground stone axe, a chipped knife, scrapers and flakes have been found 420m to the north of the site in East Hill [33]. Other finds dating to the Neolithic which have been found within the study area are three axes at Wandsworth Common 430m to the north east of the site [30], Spencer Park 490m to the east of the site [31] and Huguenot Place 390m to the north of the site [32].

Iron Age (700 BC – 42 AD)

Calcined bone, a possible hearth, polished pebble, sandstone grain rubber, pottery and various flint artefacts thought to be evidence for an Early Iron Age occupation site, were all found during excavations in 1971 in St Ann's Crescent 270m to the north west of the site [3].

Roman (AD 43 – 409)

Roman finds consist of a 2nd century cinerary urn excavated in St Anne's Crescent 180m to the south west of the site [4], a bronze key found in East Hill 420m to the north west of the site [34] and some undiagnosed Roman material found in Malva Close [35].

Post-medieval (1540 – 1900)

Post-medieval features are more numerous mainly consisting of sand and gravel pits on Wandsworth Common, between 290 and 430m generally east of the site [5], [6], [7], [8], [11] and [12].

A Huguenot cemetery which opened in 1687 and closed in 1854 is located in East Hill 400m to the north of the site [9]. Within the cemetery there are a number of table tombs which are listed.

The town hall is located in East Hill 400m to the north of the site [13].

The remains of footings for terraced houses were identified during fieldwork in 1992 in Malva Close [10]. Ditches, drains, pits, terraced ground and plough soil have been identified during fieldwork in 2005, 480m to the north east of the site in East Hill [14].

Listed Buildings

Within the study area there are 13 listed buildings, two of which are Grade II* with the remaining 11, Grade II. Listed Grade II* are nos. 174 and 176 East Hill 480m to the north west of the site [37] and St Anne's Church 340m to the west of the site [41].

174 and 176 East Hill was built for a wealthy Huguenot or Dutch immigrant family and is one of the earliest and best preserved examples of early 18th Century architecture. St Anne's Church is the 5th "Waterloo" church and was built between 1820 and 1824 in Greek Revival style to the designs of Robert Smirke.

Of the Grade II buildings five are table tombs within the Huguenot cemetery [42], [43], [45], [46] and [47]. They range in date from 1720 to 1843.

No. 178 East Hill 480m to the north west of the site, is an early to mid 18th Century three storey basemented house adjacent which is Grade II Listed [36].

No. 18 St Anne's Crescent, 230m to the west of the site, is a pair of early to mid 19th Century semi-detached houses [39]. Built in the Regency style it is a double-depth house of three storeys.

The Elms, 123 East Hill, 460m to the north west of the site, is an early 18th Century house with later alterations comprising of two storeys [47].

A mid 19th Century wind pump in Windmill Road 440m to the east of the site, used to pump water back into an ornamental lake from the adjoining London and Southampton Railway cutting [48].

Grade II Listed street furniture comprises: three boundary posts dating to circa 1890 located in Windmill Road 490m to the east of the site [38]; and two bollards dating to 1882 in Malwood Road 490m to the north west of the site [40].

Unassigned

A site in Allfarthing Lane 310m to the south west of the site was excavated in 1968, however, there is uncertainty over the remains and their conclusions and the original excavator has subsequently passed away [15].

Negative Evidence

Two sites in East Hill were excavated in 1995 and 1996, circa 450m to the north west of the site which did not identify any archaeological features [49] and [50].

5.3 Locally Listed Buildings

In addition to the nationally recognised buildings which are listed as Grade I, II* and II there are a number of buildings which have been recognised by Wandsworth Council as being of local importance. These are: 'The Book House' 45 East Hill 420m to the north of the site; nos. 1-6 Heathfield Gardens 190m to the east of the site; nos. 4-10 St Anne's Crescent 220m to the west of the site; and 2 Spencer Park 470m to the east of the site.

5.4 Documentary and Cartographic Sources

Documentary Sources

The place name of Wandsworth is thought to originate in the 7th Century when a Saxon noble called Wendle gave his name to a settlement by the River Wandle. In Anglo Saxon 'worth' signifies either a village or a shore. There have been various spellings: in the Domesday Book it is 'Wandesorde' and 'Wendlesorde' and in other records 'Wandlesworth' and 'Wendlesworth' (Lysons, 1792, 502).

In Saxon times the area was divided into four manors: Wandsworth; Allfarthing; Down; and Dunsfold. The proposed development site lies within the Manor of Allfarthing.

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 Wandsworth was held by the Abbot of Saint-Wandile through Ingulf the monk. Sein held it of the king and could go where he would. It was assessed at 1 hide under King Edward but at nothing under William. There were 3 villans and 2 bordars with 1 plough. It was and is worth 20 shillings (Williams and Martin, 2003, 79).

Another manor in the area is recorded as being held by six sokemen (freemen) of King Edward and they could go where they would. There were 2 halls and was assessed at 12 hides. There is land for 4 ploughs. After the conquest William received the sherrifdom. The manor was held by four tenants: Ansfrid's land was assessed at 5 hides, now at 1 hide; Heldred's land was assessed at 3 hides, now at nothing; Ulward's land was assessed at 3 hides; and Walter the vineyard keeper's land was assessed at 1 hide. None of them paid tax. There were 2½ ploughs, 5 villans, 22 bordars with 2 ploughs and 22 acres of meadow. The whole manor was worth 110 shillings before the Conquest and £8 at the time of Domesday (Williams and Martin, 2003, 84).

Disputes between the four tenants resulted in Allfarthing Manor being confiscated by William who granted it to Westminster Abbey. The Abbey owned Allfarthing for the next 500 years until 1540 when Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries; the manor was annexed to Hampton Court and granted to Thomas Cromwell (Malden, 1912, 505).

A succession of owners saw Allfarthing Manor changing hands on a frequent basis over the next 250 years.

In the wider area Wandsworth remained predominantly rural with the nucleus of the village located by the River Wandle in East Hill. A ford was the only means of crossing the river until 1602 when Elizabeth I had a stone bridge constructed (Malden, 1912, 508).

The Wandle has been an important influence on the development of Wandsworth and industry further afield in Surrey. By 1366 Allfarthing Manor is recorded as having shops (Malden, 1912, 510).

The area had proved attractive to European refugees. During the 16th Century Dutch refugees established a brass industry manufacturing frying pans and other utensils. French Protestants who had fled persecution in France during the 17th Century settled in Wandsworth, amongst other places. They brought their skills in silk weaving, printing, dyeing and colouring with them and established a successful millinery industry. Their contribution to the development of Wandsworth is evident in the Huguenot burial ground which they opened in 1687 (<http://londoncemeteries.co.uk>, first accessed 12th December 2013). Other groups of refugees established calico printing and bleaching (Malden, 1992, 512).

By the end of the 18th Century some 500 people were employed in factories and mills, however, the majority were still employed in agriculture and pastures with 218 acres being utilised for market gardening (Malden, 1912, 512).

Unprecedented change took place during the 19th Century which was kickstarted with the arrival of the Surrey Iron Railway in 1808. At the turn of the 19th Century the population was 12,087 which had increased to 306,090, 100 years later (www.visionofbritain.org.uk, first accessed 12th December 2013). The road network expanded and the old detached houses redeveloped with terraced housing (as shown on figures 9-11) to house the increase in population. In 1841, 1,810 were employed in agriculture, 4,526 employed in manufacturing industry and 5,743 employed in the service industry. The comparable figures for 1931 were 1,014 employed in agriculture, 78,104 employed in manufacturing industry and 106,752 employed in the service industry (www.visionofbritain.org.uk, first accessed 12th December 2013).

By the 20th Century Wandsworth’s rural past had all but disappeared and the current land use established.

Cartographic Sources

The cartographic evidence shows the activity which has taken place within and surrounding the study area in more recent times. From this it is possible to form an opinion as to the likely impact this later activity has had on any possible archaeological deposits.

The earliest maps which depict the study area date from the mid 18th Century. Bowles’ map of 1730 (figure 4) lacks details, however, it clearly shows the River Thames to the north; the River Wandle flowing into it; the bridge crossing the Wandle; and villages such as Balham to the east, Upper Tooting to the south and Putney Heath to the west.

John Roque’s map of 1741-5 (figure 5) shows more detail. By this time the main road network as it exists today, is largely established. Allfarthing Lane cuts across Wandsworth Common which remains common land to the east. To the west where the study area is, the common land has been divided into smaller enclosures, possibly fields and market gardens. Houses are shown concentrated mainly in the old village centre along the High Street, East Hill and West Hill and the northern part of Garratt Lane to the west.

The houses would be a mixture of tradesmen’s houses, alleys of tenements, farmhouses, industrial premises and a few substantial houses.

John Corris’s map of 1787 (figure 6) is the earliest detailed map showing the whole parish. It was drawn as an attempt by George, 2nd Earl of Spencer (who had succeeded his father in 1783) to clarify his holdings and rights in the area (Gerhold, 2002, 3).

To the south and east, South Field, is recorded as an open field with an area of 270 acres, 1 rood and 9 perches. Of the three fields in the parish it is the largest, the other two being Bridge Field and North Field (Gerhold, 2002, 10).

The study area lies in plot no. 278. The entries for this plot and for the adjacent plot, no. 277, are as follows:

Plot	Proprietor	Tenant	Name of the Parcels	Area*		
				A	R	P
277	Lord Middleton Pearce Porter Esq etc	Thomas Bennett	Buildings, gardens, closes etc. and the Turks Head public house	42	2	0
278	Pearce Porter Esq and others	John Williamson	The Two Brewers Publick [sic] House and sundry buildings, yards, gardens, closes etc.	46	0	16

* A – acres, R – roods, P – perches

Paterson’s map of 1809 (figure 7) shows the Surrey Iron Railway running north/south to the west of the study area. It was the first public railway in the world, being established by Act of Parliament in 1801 and opening on the 26th July 1803. Following the shallow valley of the River Wandle it was built to transport the products of the mills in Croydon and Mitcham to Wandsworth where they were transported by barge along the River Thames to London and further afield.

Anyone could use the railway on payment of a toll. It was not a financial success because the horse-drawn carriages could not compete with the steam railways which were becoming

popular in the 1830's. As a result the Surrey Iron Railway went out of business in 1846 (www.wandsworth.gov.uk, first accessed 10th December 2013).

The Tithe map of 1838 (figure 8) was produced before the major development phase and shows that the land enclosed by the High Street and Allfarthing Lane has been divided into fields with a few large buildings. The study area is still shown to be open fields. The Tithe apportionments are recorded as follows:

Plot	Occupier	Owner	Description of property	Where situated	Contents*		
					A	R	P
274	Lydia Harrison	Lydia Harrison	2 fields, 4 gardens	Wandsworth Common	3	2	8
274a							
275							
276							

* A – acres, R – roods, P – perches

The First Edition Ordnance Map of 1866 (figure 9) shows the study area in more detail. Little has changed in the 35 years since the Tithe map was produced. Semi-detached houses set in large plots are shown along St Ann's Hill (since renamed St Anne's Crescent) to the west of the study area whilst along Allfarthing Lane large villas and lodges with landscaped grounds are shown.

In 1871 the Metropolitan Board of Works acquired Wandsworth Common under the powers established by the Hampstead Heath Act. The Act provided that the Board should keep the Common publically accessible and should not be built on (Richardson, 2001, 295).

The area has undergone significant change during the next 30 years. The Second Edition OS map of 1894-6 (figure 10) shows the road network to be largely established. Terraced housing is shown along Melody Road and part of Geraldine Road. For the first time the site has been developed with only the north west corner remaining undeveloped. The land adjacent to the south boundary remains undeveloped.

The OS map of 1916 is the first map of the 20th Century and shows that all remaining open land has now been developed with detached housing (figure 11). Adjacent to the south boundary of the site a library is shown.

During the Blitz, 7th October 1940 – 6th June 1941, a high explosive bomb was recorded as falling near Geraldine Road in the between (www.bombsight.org, first accessed 10th December 2013). Many of the houses were damaged beyond repair (figure 12).

Following the Second World War the bomb damaged areas were cleared and the terraced houses replaced with pre-fabricated properties set back from the road frontage. These would have been built to house the servicemen returning from the Second World War and their families. The site has been included in this redevelopment as shown on the OS map of 1948 (figure 13).

During the next 15 years the site has been extensively redeveloped as shown on the OS map of 1962 (figure 14). The houses have been cleared and the current layout is visible. To the north the flats at nos. 96-126 Melody Road have been built whilst to the south a library is again shown along with the flats at nos. 128-162 Melody Road. Flats on the opposite side of Melody Road are shown at nos. 95-121.

The land use shown on the OS map of 1962 remains until 1990 (figure 15).

6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

6.1 Introduction

The archaeological potential of the study area (the area within 500m from the centre of the site) is based upon the presence, or otherwise, of designated and undesignated heritage assets and the impact which previous and future land use has had, and will potentially have on them. Consideration should also be given to the as yet unidentified heritage assets such as archaeological remains. This is based on information collated from existing information (maps, documents, previous fieldwork within the study area); a site visit; and professional judgement.

This assessment has identified a number of heritage assets within the study area as shown in the table below:

Heritage Asset	Designated/ Undesignated	Significance	Present within the study area?
World Heritage Site	Designated	Very high	No
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Designated	High	No
Conservation Areas	Designated	High	Yes
Buildings in conservation areas	Designated	High	Yes
Listed buildings – Grade I and II*	Designated	High	Yes
Archaeological Priority Areas	Designated	High/medium	Yes
Listed buildings – Grade II	Designated	Medium	Yes
Historic parks and gardens	Designated	Medium	No
War memorials	Desig & Undes	Medium/low	No
Any other building, monument, site place area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance warranting consideration in planning decisions	Undesignated	Medium/low	No
Locally listed buildings	Undesignated	Low	Yes
Locally registered parks and gardens	Undesignated	Low	No

Table 3. Heritage assets within the study area.

6.2 Standing Heritage Assets within the Study Area

The study area falls within an Archaeological Priority Area and Conservation Area, both designated heritage assets. The Wandsworth Common Conservation Area has been designated on the basis of: *‘the relationship between the fine-grained pattern of development surrounding the common and the open space of the common. The pattern of streets is mainly in the form of grids, essentially of two to three storeys and semi-detached buildings of Victorian and Edwardian origin’* (WC, n.d., 4). While the impact of the development on the character of the Conservation Area is a matter for planning consideration the designation does not affect the archaeological assessment of the site.

Details of the listed buildings and locally listed buildings within the study area are set out at paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 above. None of these are in close proximity to the site and the proposed development will not have any impact on the archaeological significance of these buildings, tombs and street furniture.

There are no designated heritage assets of international/very high importance such as World Heritage Sites or Scheduled Ancient Monuments, listed battlefields, historic parks and gardens or war memorials within the study area.

6.3 Buried Heritage Assets within the Study Area

The HER has identified the buried heritage assets within the study area. After considering the historic land use an assessment can then be made of the significance of any impact on any potential archaeological remains.

There have been a number of finds dating to the prehistoric period (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Iron Age) which shows evidence of human activity. Although settlement sites are often ambiguous a lithic working site has been found in St Ann's Hill. Other evidence dating to the prehistoric period comprises of isolated stray finds, predominantly axes, which have been found across the study area. These types of finds are consistent with other parts of London which are situated on low lying river gravel deposits.

Based on English Heritage's HER the significance of any heritage assets dating to the prehistoric period is therefore thought to be low for occupation sites and low to moderate for isolated residual finds.

Roman activity is confined to isolated stray finds and a single cinerary urn. Therefore based on English Heritage's HER the significance of any heritage assets dating to the Roman period is thought to be low.

For the majority of its history the site would have been in open ground.

It was not until the end of the 19th Century that the site was developed for the first time. Ten terraced houses are shown covering three quarters of the site on the Second Edition OS map of 1894-6 (figure 10). These types of houses went up all over London during the second half of the 19th Century to meet the increased demand for housing. Typically they consisted of two stories built on stepped brick foundations.

The remaining quarter of the site was developed by the time of the 1916 map (figure 11), again with terraced housing.

The bomb damage map of 1940-1 (figure 12) shows that the area, including the site, experienced extensive damage when a high explosive bomb landed near to the site in Geraldine Road.

Following the Second World War the area was cleared and redeveloped with pre-fabricated housing set back from Melody Road. These would have had shallow concrete raft foundations.

By 1962 the site had assumed its current layout as by this time the pre-fabricated houses had been demolished and the car park and the flats flanking the north and south boundaries, built (figure 14). It is thought that the construction of the car park would have involved the clearance and levelling of the area and the laying of suitable drainage.

Based on English Heritage's HER and, particularly the cartographic and documentary evidence for the site, the significance of any heritage assets dating to the post Medieval period is therefore thought to be low.

6.4 Future land use including the current proposals

The application being submitted to Wandsworth Council involves the redevelopment of the existing car park with 9 residential units and associated landscaping and car parking.

The nature of the foundations along with the slab level and formation levels were not known at the time of writing.

Enabling works for the removal of hard and soft features such as the car park and landscaped areas for the construction of foundations and new floor slab would have the potential to remove any potentially surviving archaeological remains.

The laying of services in areas not affected by the enabling works would have an additional impact on any potentially surviving archaeological remains.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This desk-top assessment has been prepared to support a planning application for the proposed development of the land between nos. 96-126 and nos. 128-162 Melody Road, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2QG. It summarises the potential for archaeological remains on the proposed development site and the effect of past and future development on archaeological potential.

The application to be submitted to Wandsworth Council involves the redevelopment of the existing car park with 9 residential units and associated landscaping and car parking.

A review of the existing information has identified both designated and undesignated heritage assets within the study area. Generally these comprise stray, unstratified finds dating to the prehistoric period and listed structures – buildings, tombs and street furniture – dating to the post Medieval period.

The significance of these heritage assets range from low for the locally listed buildings and buried archaeological remains to high for the Grade II* Listed Buildings, Archaeological Priority Area and Conservation Area. It is unlikely however, that the proposed development will have any impact on the significance of these heritage assets.

The potential for finding buried heritage assets within the study area dating to the prehistoric period is thought to be low to moderate due to the potential of stray, unstratified finds turning up. For the Roman and post Medieval periods the potential is thought to be low.

It has to be suspected that the episodes of the 20th Century, namely the bomb damage which the study area experienced and its subsequent clearance and redevelopment, has truncated any potentially surviving archaeological deposits.

Recommendations

Due to its nature this assessment cannot confirm the presence and significance of any buried heritage assets within the site. As the site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area the local planning authority may require fieldwork to determine the location, nature, extent and significance of any buried heritage assets. The nature and extent of the fieldwork will need to be agreed in advance of work commencing, usually as a condition of planning permission.

To help inform that decision the following research questions can be formulated:

- What is the nature, significance and extent of any field boundaries identified on the Tith map?; and
- What is the nature, significance and extent of any building foundations of the later 19th Century and can they be correlated with the cartographic evidence?

The final decision however rests with the London Borough of Wandsworth as the local planning authority, taking advice from their nominated archaeological advisors, English Heritage.

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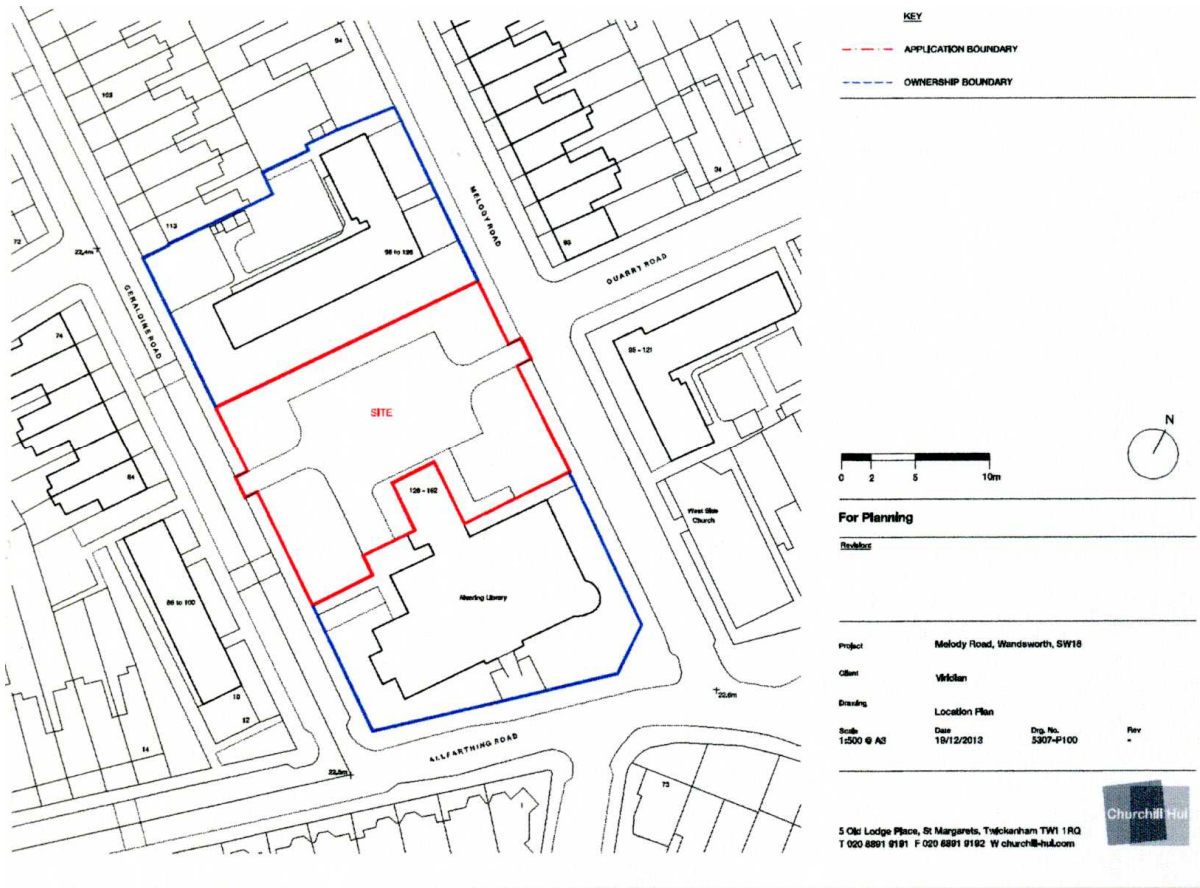
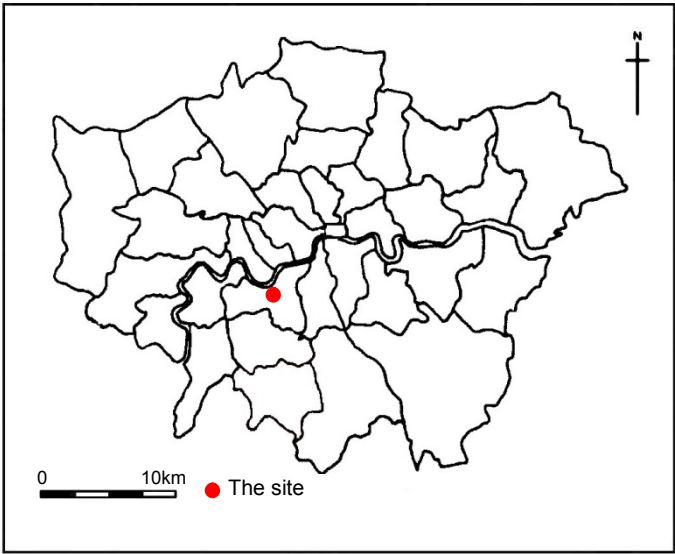


Figure 1. Location plan showing the site outlined red (not to scale)(copyright: Churchill Hui Architects).

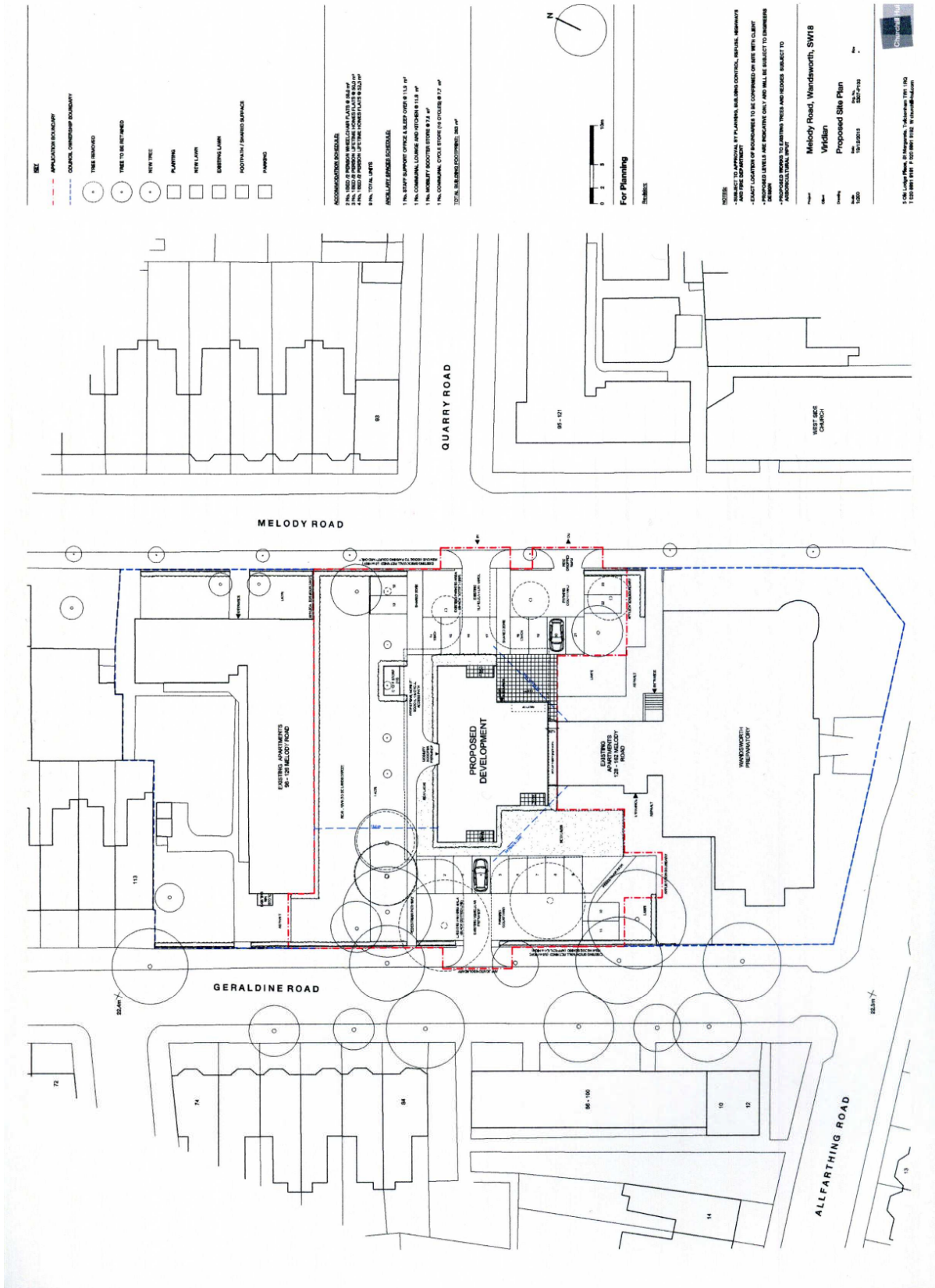
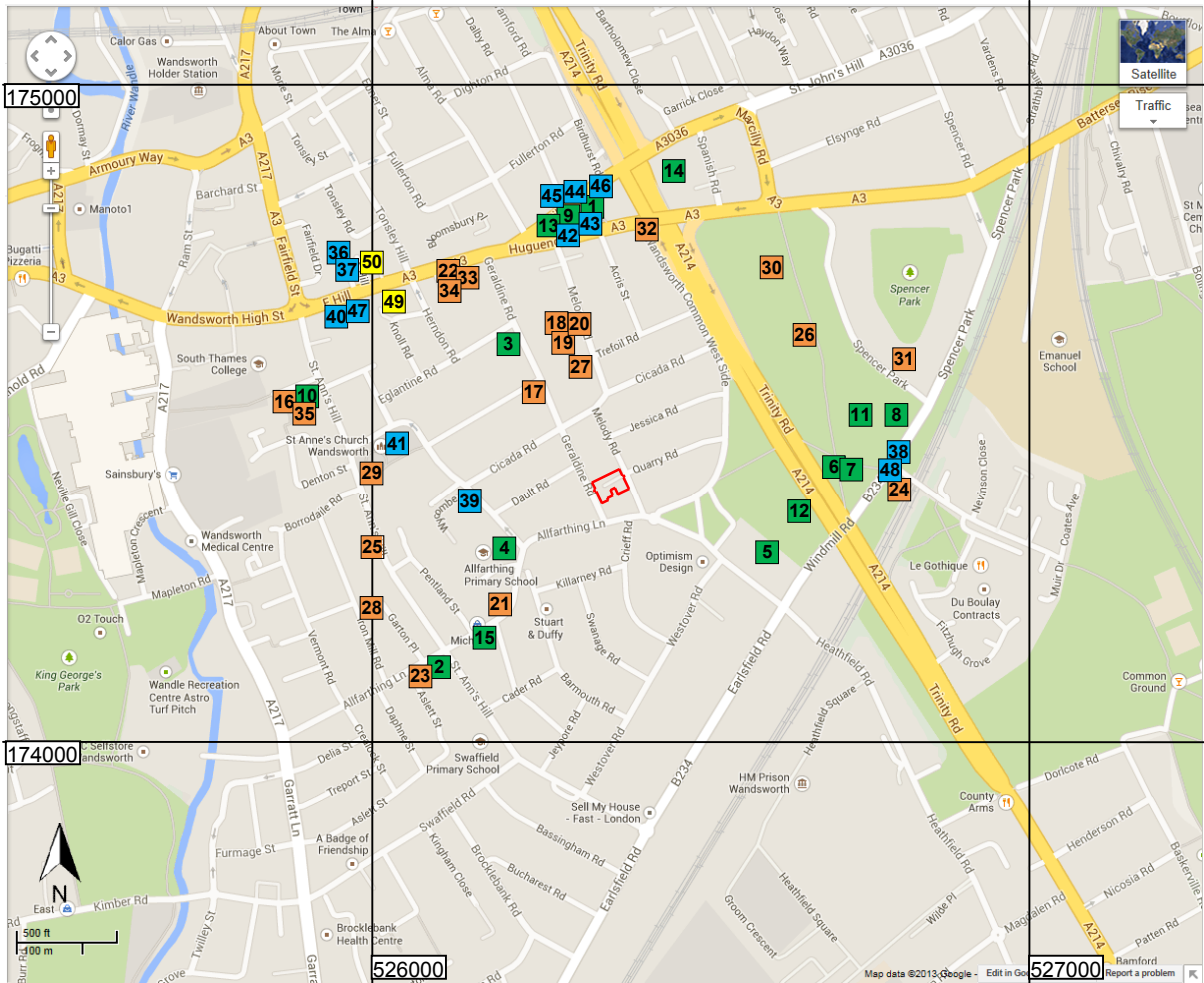


Figure 2. Site plan of the proposed development (not to scale)(copyright: Churchill Hui Architects).



Key:






-  Application site
-  Feature, numbers 1 - 15
-  Find spot, numbers 16 - 35
-  Listed building, numbers 36 - 48
-  Negative evidence, numbers 49 - 50

Figure 3. Archaeological entries held on English Heritage’s Historic Environment Record.

No.	HER no.	Address	OS Grid Ref	Period	Type	Description
1	MLO97967	Wandsworth Phoenix Vauxhall Garage, East Hill	TQ 26439 74863	Prehistoric	Feature	Possible hollow revealed during an evaluation in 2005
2	MLO10187	St Ann's Hill	TQ 26100 74100	Palaeolithic	Feature	Lithic working site
3	MLO25983	51 St Anne's Crescent	TQ 26200 74600	Iron Age	Feature	Occupation site
4	MLO13272	St Ann's Hill	TQ 26200 74300	Roman	Feature	2 nd Century cinerary urn
5	MLO12756	Wandsworth Common	TQ 26600 74300	Post-medieval	Feature	Sand pit
6	MLO13825	Wandsworth Common	TQ 26700 74400	Post-medieval	Feature	Sand pit
7	MLO13828	Wandsworth Common	TQ 26700 74400	Post-medieval	Feature	Sand pit
8	MLO13829	Wandsworth Common	TQ 26800 74500	Post-medieval	Feature	Gravel pit
9	MLO26699	East Hill	TQ 26280 74780	Post-medieval	Feature	Cemetery
10	MLO63716	Malva Close, 211-221 St Ann's Hill	TQ 25890 74520	Post-medieval	Feature	Footings for terraced houses revealed during an evaluation in 1992
11	MLO72917	Wandsworth Common	TQ 26750 74500	Post-medieval	Feature	Sand pit
12	MLO72918	Wandsworth Common	TQ 26650 74350	Post-medieval	Feature	Sand pit
13	MLO73966	45 East Hill	TQ 26260 74780	Post-medieval	Feature	Town Hall
14	MLO97973	Wandsworth Phoenix Vauxhall Garage, East Hill	TQ 26439 74863	Post-medieval	Feature	Ditches, drains, pits, terraced ground and plough soil revealed during an evaluation in 2005
15	MLO1347	Allfarthing Lane	TQ 26170 74160	Unassigned	Feature	Site excavated 1968 but uncertainty remains over its conclusions
16	MLO63714	Malva Close, 211-221 St Ann's Hill	TQ 25890 74520	Prehistoric	Find spot	Lithic implement
17	MLO493	Geraldine Road	TQ 26200 74500	Palaeolithic	Find spot	Scraper tool
18	MLO10426	Bramblebury Estate	TQ 26300 74600	Palaeolithic	Find spot	Flake
19	MLO10427	Bramblebury Estate	TQ 26300 74600	Palaeolithic	Find spot	Axe
20	MLO10994	Bramblebury Estate	TQ 26300 74600	Palaeolithic	Find spot	Handaxe
21	MLO11919	Allfarthing Lane	TQ 26200 74200	Palaeolithic	Find spot	Axe
22	MLO11920	East Hill	TQ 26100 74700	Palaeolithic	Find spot	Axe
23	MLO14482	The Grove	TQ 26100 74100	Palaeolithic	Find spot	Axe
24	MLO23372	Davies Estate	TQ 26800 74400	Palaeolithic	Find spot	Flake
25	MLO103361	St Ann's Hill	TQ 26000 74280	Palaeolithic	Find spot	Flakes, hammerstone and handaxe
26	MLO103362	Spencer Park	TQ 26640 74610	Palaeolithic	Find spot	Flakes
27	MLO10462	Bramblebury Estate	TQ 26310 74570	Mesolithic	Find spot	Axe
28	MLO14492	St Ann's Hill	TQ 26000 74200	Mesolithic	Find spot	Blade/flake
29	MLO23208	St Ann's Hill	TQ 26100 74400	Mesolithic	Find spot	Blade/flake
30	MLO3130	Wandsworth Common	TQ 26600 74700	Neolithic	Find spot	Axe
31	MLO3131	Spencer Park	TQ 26800 74600	Neolithic	Find spot	Axe
32	MLO13345	Junction of Huguenot Place and Wandsworth Common West Side	TQ 26400 74800	Neolithic	Find spot	Axe
33	MLO3655	East Hill	TQ 26100 74700	Neolithic	Find spot	Tools including ground stone axe, chipped knife, scrapers and flakes
34	MLO13098	East Hill	TQ26100 74700	Roman	Find spot	Bronze key
35	MLO63715	Malva Close, 211-221 St Ann's Hill	TQ 25890 74520	Roman	Find spot	Undiagnosed Roman material

No.	HER no.	Address	OS Grid Ref	Period	Type	Description
36	MLO93724	178 East Hill	TQ 25972 74707	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II - Early – mid 18 th Century 3 storey basemented house
37	MLO93884	174 & 176 East Hill	TQ 25984 74708	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II* - Large house circa 1736
38	MLO93672	Windmill Road	TQ 26796 74450	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II - 3 boundary posts
39	MLO93773	18 St Anne's Crescent	TQ 26132 74353	Post medieval	Listed building	Grade II – Pair of semi-detached houses circa 1820-30
40	MLO93741	Malwood Road	TQ 25964 74654	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II – bollards dating to 1882
41	MLO93682	St Ann's Hill	TQ 26031 74446	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II* - St Anne's Church built 1820-4
42	MLO93790	Huguenot Place	TQ 26283 74785	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II – Table tomb to Cotterell and Allen dating to 1843
43	MLO93733	Huguenot Place	TQ 26309 74793	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II – Table tomb to Peter Paggen dating to 1720
44	MLO93791	Huguenot Place	TQ 26310 74831	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II – Table tomb to Errington Ward dating to 1769
45	MLO93734	Huguenot Place	TQ 26296 74822	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II – Table tomb to John Gilham dating to 1728
46	MLO93887	Huguenot Place	TQ 26321 74816	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II – Table tomb to Samuel John dating to the early to mid 18 th Century
47	MLO93723	The Elms, 123 East Hill	TQ 25963 74655	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II – Early 18 th Century house with later alterations
48	MLO93671	Windmill Road	TQ 26788 74433	Post-medieval	Listed building	Grade II – Wind pump to pump water built 1837
49	MLO66001	107-113 East Hill	TQ 26010 74680	None	Negative evidence	Watching brief in 1995 revealed no archaeological features
50	MLO70909	168-174 East Hill	TQ 26000 74710	None	Negative evidence	Watching brief in 1996 revealed no archaeological features

Table 4. Archaeological entries held on English Heritage's Historic Environment Record.

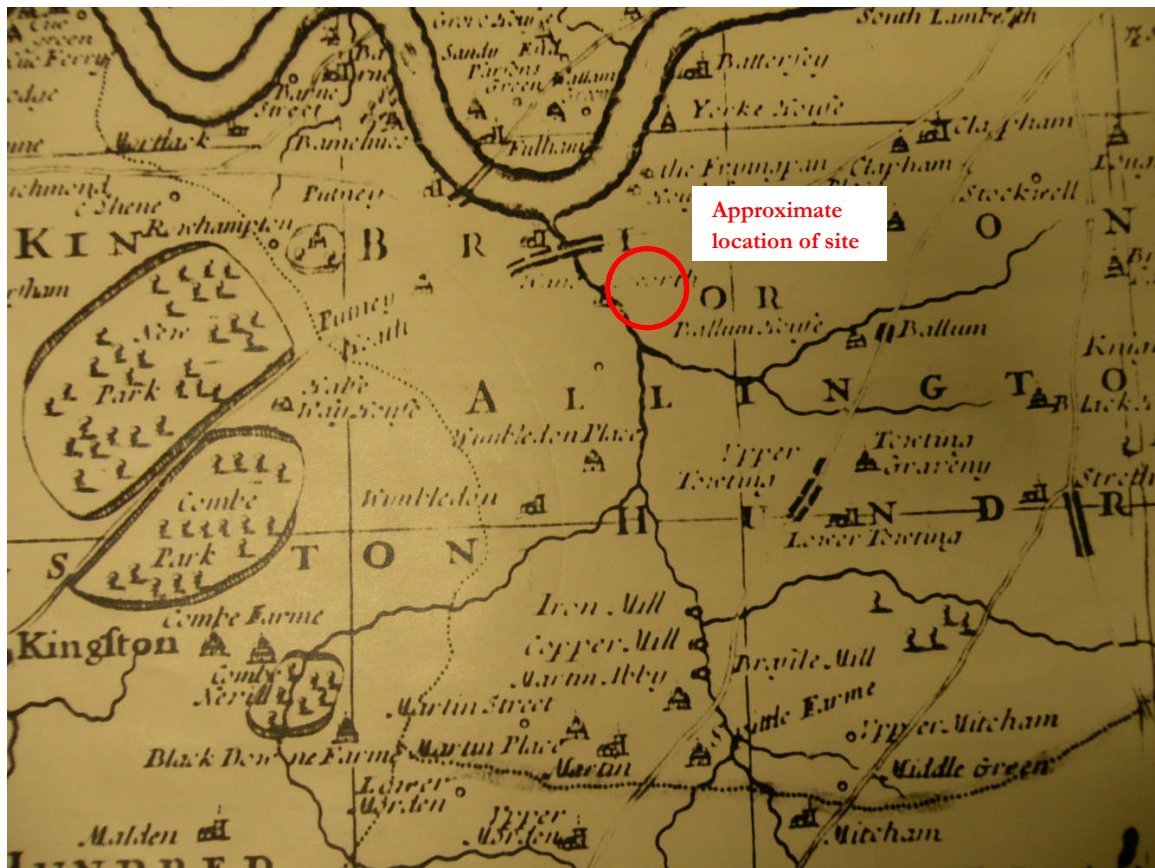


Figure 4. Bowles's map of 1730.



Figure 5. John Roque's map of 1741-5.



Figure 8. Tithe map of 1838.

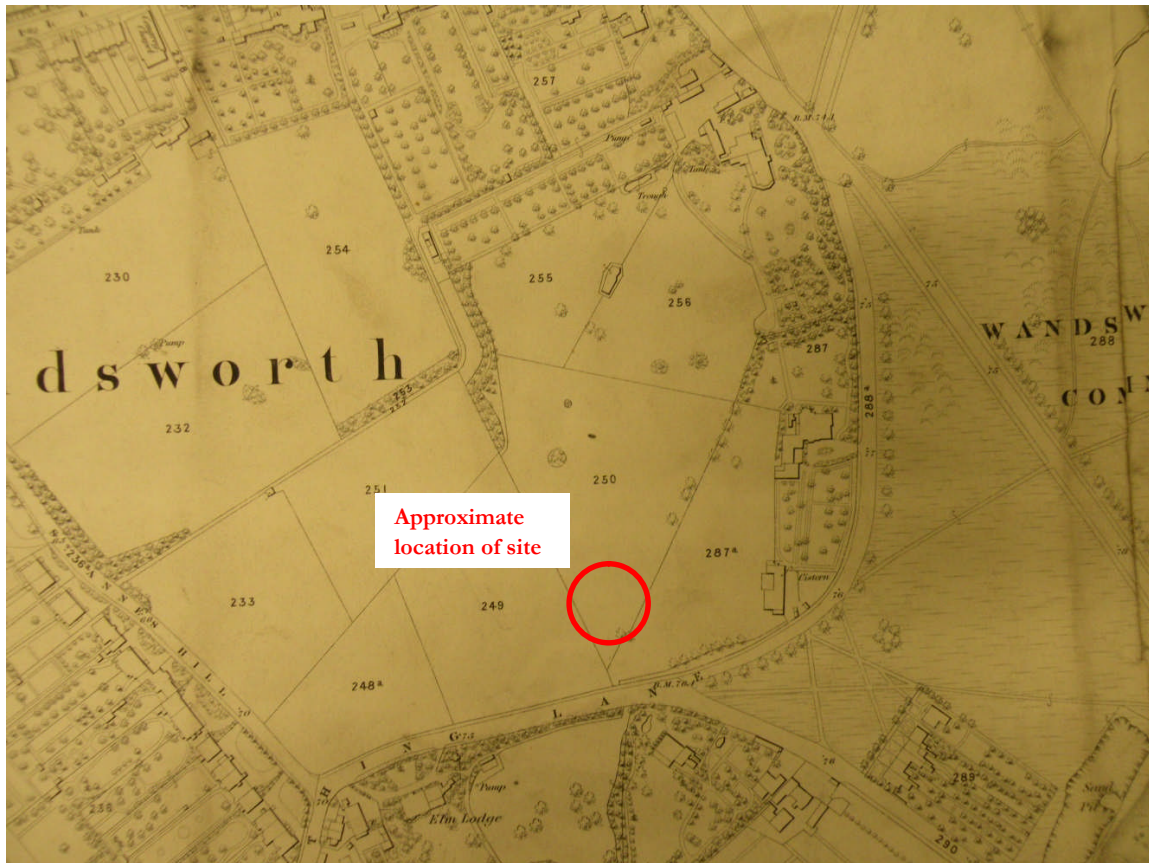


Figure 9. First edition OS map of 1866 (not to scale).

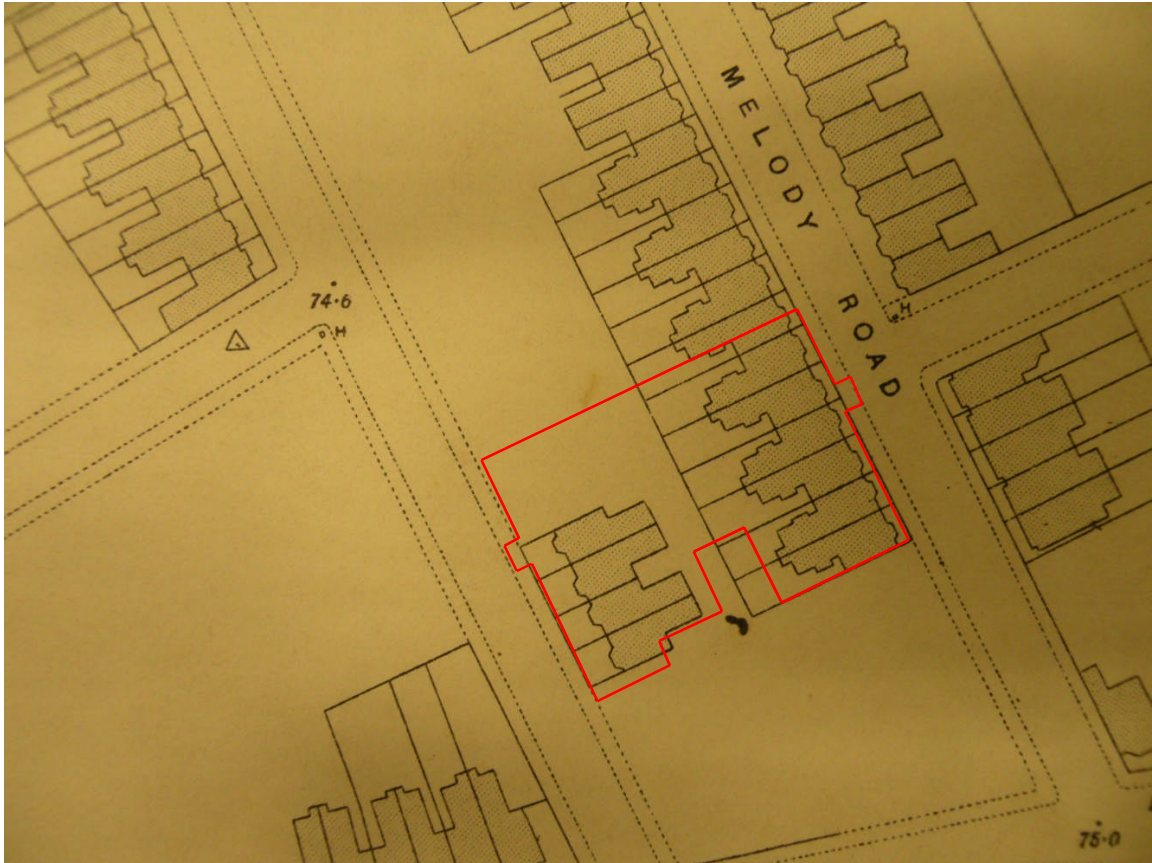


Figure 10. OS 1:2500 map of 1894-6 (not to scale).



Figure 11. OS 1:2500 map of 1916 (not to scale).



Figure 12. Bomb damage map of 1940-41 (not to scale).



Figure 13. OS 1:1250 map of 1948 (not to scale).

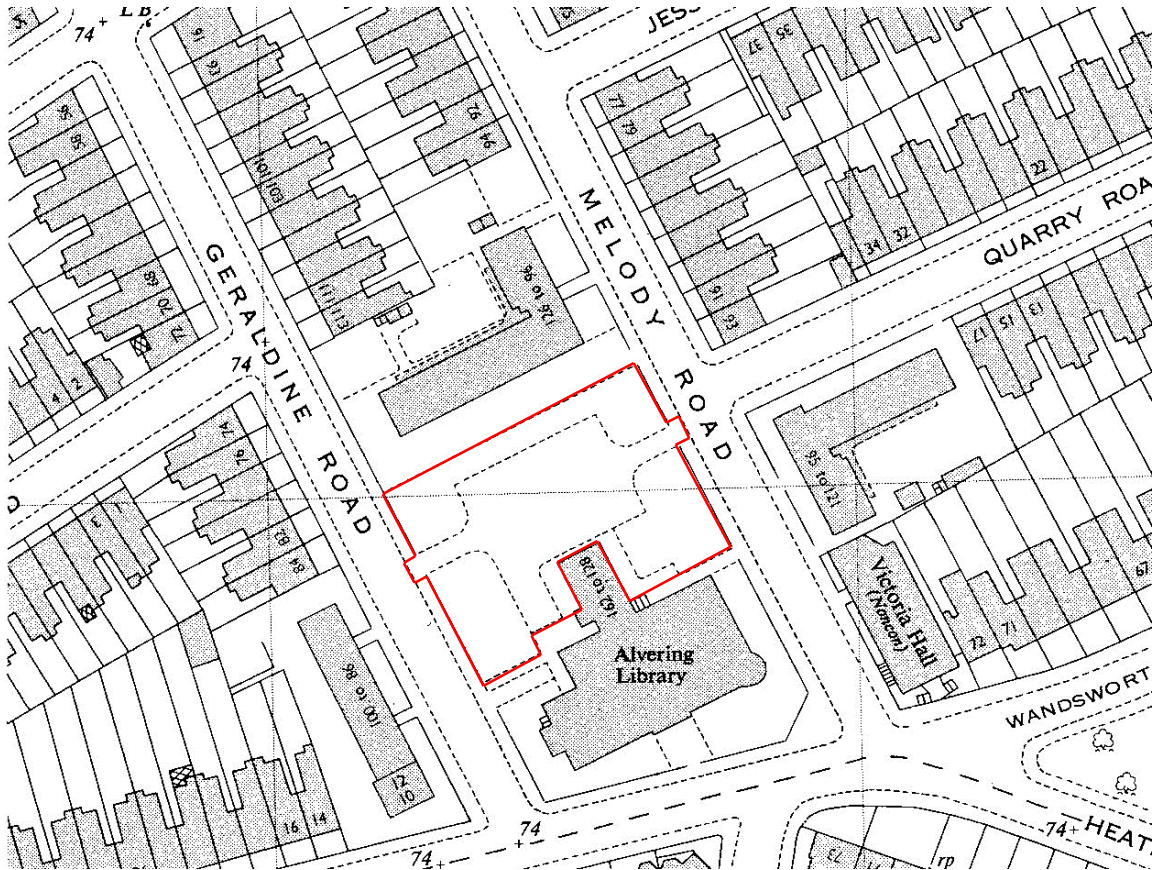


Figure 14. OS 1:1250 map of 1962 (not to scale).

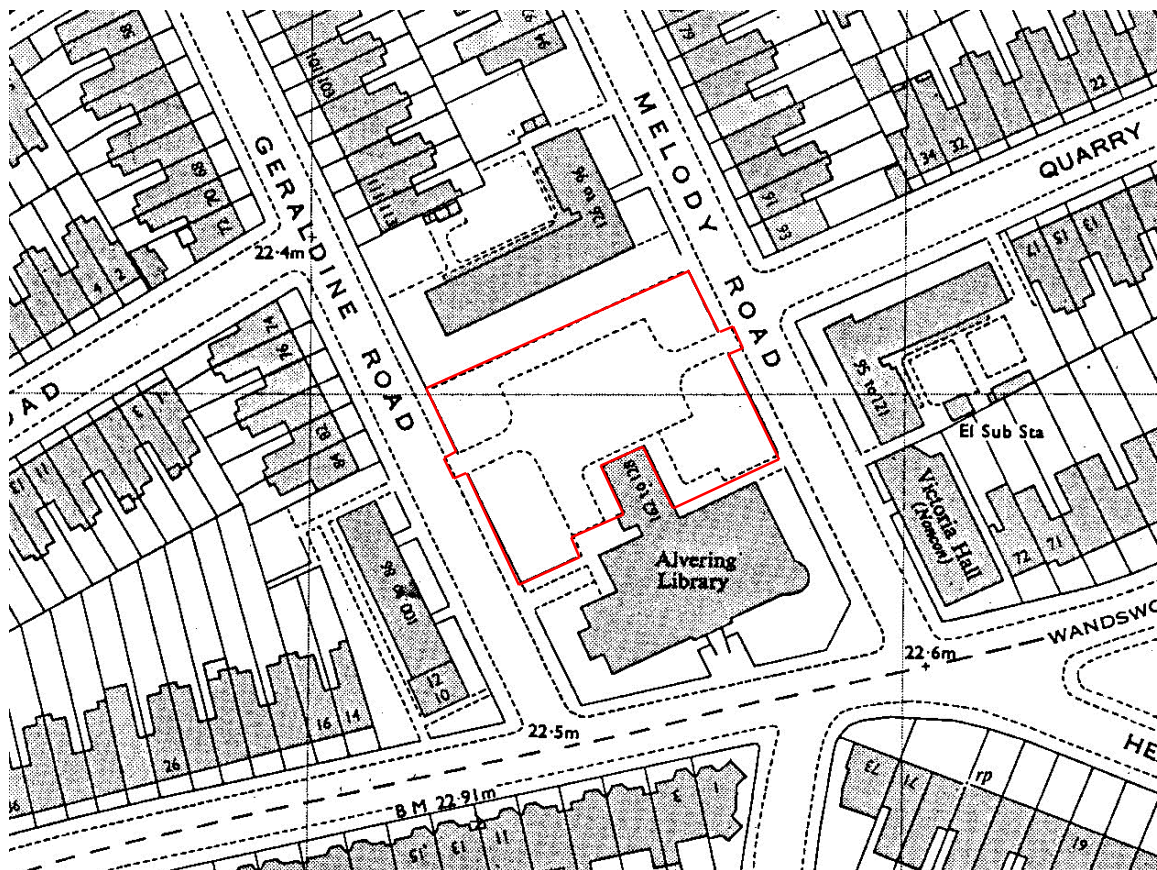


Figure 15. OS 1:1250 map of 1990 (not to scale).