

38 Lauriston Road, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton: An Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Report

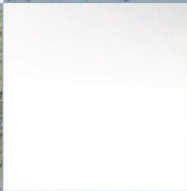
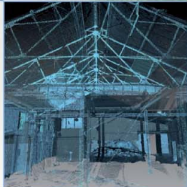
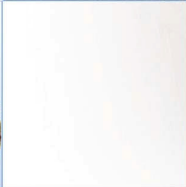
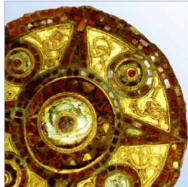
Planning Reference: 10/P3400

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 23752 70703

AOC Project No: 30987

Site Code: LST11

Date: June 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

38 Lauriston Road, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton: An Archaeological Strip Map and Record Report

On Behalf of: Mr M Hall

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 23752, 70703

AOC Project No: 30987

Prepared by: Helen MacQuarrie

Illustration by: Jonathan Moller

Date of Fieldwork: 13th & 14th June 2011

Date of Report: June 2011

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

On the 13th and 14th of June 2011 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a programme of archaeological strip, map and record at 38 Lauriston Road, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton. The archaeological investigation involved the archaeological monitoring of ground works associated with the removal of the foundations of the two-storey structure which previously occupied the site. The area within the foot print of the proposed structure was then subject to a strip, map and record archaeological investigation.

The sole archaeological feature recorded during the investigation was a north-south running ditch cut into the natural sands and gravels (which were encountered at 0.95m BGS; 53.82 – 54.01m OD). No artefacts or environmental data was recovered from the ditch fill. The ditch was sealed by a 20th century made ground deposit associated with the construction of the mid-late 20th century structure which occupied the site prior to development.

The features and deposits identified on site are of low archaeological significance. No features were identified which could be directly associated with prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity within the site boundary as the 20th century redevelopment of the site appears to have truncated earlier deposits.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological strip, map and record undertaken during the groundworks undertaken for re-development works at 38 Lauriston Road, Wimbledon. The archaeological investigation involved the archaeological monitoring of ground works associated with the removal of the foundations of the two-storey structure which previously occupied the site. The area within the foot print of the proposed structure was then subject to a strip, map and record archaeological investigation.
- 1.2 The site is located at 38 Lauriston Road, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton at National Grid Reference (NGR) 23752 70703 and covers an area of approximately 577 square metres. The site is bounded by Wilberforce Way to the southeast, domestic properties to the northeast and northwest and Lauriston Road to the southwest.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Merton Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Mark Stevenson, Archaeological Advisor at the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.2 The site lies in the West Wimbledon Conservation Area - Sub Area 11, which contains three listed properties. No Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings lie within the boundary of the site.
- 2.3 An archaeological condition has been attached to planning consent (Planning Ref. 10/P3400), in order that the archaeological implications of the development can be fully considered. The condition 15 states:

No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

- 2.4 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared as a requirement of the condition. This WSI details the methods and standards to which this investigation will be undertaken. This has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IFA 2008a).
 - Institute of Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavations (IFA 2008b)
 - English Heritage - Archaeological Guidance Papers 2-4 London Region (EH 1998a-c)
 - DoCLG – Planning Policy Statement (PPS5): Planning for the Historic Environment (DoCLG 2010)

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 270) indicates that the site is situated upon High Level Terraces, overlying London Clay.
- 3.2 No known geotechnical surveys have been carried out on site.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric (before c. AD 43)

- 4.1 A total of 23 barrows have been recorded on Wimbledon common, some of which were opened in 1786 and pottery found (VCH 1912). Barrows also existed near Caesars Camp, 1.4km northeast of the site, and traces of hut-circles are said to have been visible in 1856 (VCH 1912). The Ridgeway is thought to be part of the prehistoric route from the ford at Kingston along the slopes on the southern side of the Thames Valley.
- 4.2 Prehistoric activity was identified during excavations at 56 Parkside, approximately 1.6km north of the current development. The excavations revealed prehistoric gullies, one of which contained pottery dating to the 1st millennium BC. Archaeological investigations at 52 Parkside also uncovered a gully and a linear ditch. No dating evidence was recovered from these features but they are thought to be related to the prehistoric gullies recorded at 56 Parkside.
- 4.3 Caesars Camp, an Iron Age Hill fort and Scheduled Ancient Monument is located approximately 1.4km northeast of the site. Probably built in the 5th century BC, this roughly circular fort was protected by a single rampart and ditch and enclosed 4.3ha. The earthwork was very strong, having originally a 4m deep ditch, backed by a rampart faced both front and back by strong timbers (Caesars Camp 2007).
- 4.4 A Neolithic flint fabricator was found in Wimbledon Park, unfortunately no further information about the lithic tool is known.

Roman (c. AD 43 - 410)

- 4.5 Wimbledon is located to the southwest of Roman Londinium. Little Roman evidence has been recorded in the area thus far, suggesting that there was no significant settlement in the immediate area. A hoard of Roman coins, possibly 1st century in date, was, however, found at Caesars Camp. A Roman beaker and coin is also known to have been recovered in Wimbledon Common.

Early Medieval (c.410 - 1066)

- 4.6 No Saxon remains have been recorded in the local area; however pottery dating to the 10th century onward was recorded in buried soil at 44 High Street, Wimbledon, c. 450m to the north of the site.

Medieval (c.1066 - 1538)

- 4.7 The village of Wimbledon is known from the medieval period and from between 1328 until 1536 the Manor of Wimbledon was owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Weinreb and Hibbert 1995). The medieval village of Wimbledon grew around the area of the current High Street at the top of a hill.

Post-Medieval (c.1538 - modern)

- 4.8 Elizabeth I granted Wimbledon to Sir Thomas Cecil (later Earl of Exeter) who built himself a large manor house and family chapel there. Around 1588 he had the road to London improved, encouraging the growth of Wimbledon, and a number of other important homes were constructed in the area (Weinreb and Hibbert 1995).
- 4.9 Approximately 450m north of the site excavations were carried out at 6-10 Marrayat Road and rear of Eagle House. These investigations revealed a largely complete formal garden plan with associated raised terrace, which appear to be contemporary with Eagle House, a Jacobean property dated to around 1614.
- 4.10 The Rose and Crown Inn located on the High Street, dates to the mid 17th century and the land now occupied by the modern Dog and Fox was formerly occupied by an inn. The common remained relatively untouched during the post-medieval period other than occasional occupation by soldiers and armed volunteers for training (Weinreb and Hibbert 1995). Suburban growth accelerated after the railway arrived in 1838, an early date for south London.
- 4.11 Three Grade II listed buildings are located on Lauriston Road. These have been summarised by Merton Council as summarised below.
- No. 9: A substantial detached two storey grade II listed house built in 1892-4 to the design of Sir Ernest George.
 - Nos. 15 and 17: Are two detached two storey grade II listed houses, built in 1891 to the design of James Ransome with what has been described as irregular Dutch gables.

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the watching brief were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable Mark Stevenson, Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Merton Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 5.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were defined as being:
- To clarify the nature and date of activities that have been undertaken on the site
 - To clarify whether any prehistoric remains are present on site.
 - To clarify whether there is any Roman or medieval activity present on the site.

- To clarify the nature of post-medieval activity on the site.
- The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 Methodology

- 6.1 The archaeological investigation was carried out on the 13th and 14th June 2011 and involved the archaeological monitoring of ground works associated with the removal of the foundations of the two-storey structure which previously occupied the site. The area within the foot print of the proposed structure was then subject to a strip, map and record archaeological investigation. This involved the supervision of the stripping of the overburden in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or the natural geology. At this point archaeological recording was carried out.
- 6.2 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3rd Edition) (MoL 1994).
- 6.3 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
 - English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998).
 - English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 2008a).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2008b).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
 - Rescue/United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1998).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).
- 6.4 Archaeological recording consisted of:
- Limited hand cleaning of archaeological sections and surfaces sufficient to establish the stratigraphic sequence exposed.
 - The inspection of dating evidence from in-situ deposits and spoil scans.
 - A scaled photographic recording of representative exposed sections and surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the groundworks.
 - A record of the datum levels of archaeological deposits, where obtainable.
- 6.5 A unique site code, **LST11**, was obtained from the Museum of London for the project prior to the commencement of fieldwork. This was used as the site identifier on all records.

- 6.6 The archaeological investigation was undertaken by Helen MacQuarrie, under the overall direction of Alan Ford, Project Manager.

7 Results

Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0.00 – 1.23m	(001)	Overburden: loose, reddish brown loam with occasional 20 th century ceramic and CBM
0.95 – 1.50m	(002)	Undated ditch fill: Light blue brown slightly sandy silt with freq sub rounded pebbles and sub-angular flint nodules.
0.95 – 1.50m	(003)	Cut of ditch (undated): North-south running linear, 2m wide 0.30m deep, exposed within full length of trench, concave side with rounded break of slope at base and flat base. Filled by (002).
0.95 – (NFE)	(004)	Natural: soft, red/orange brown, sands and gravels.

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit recorded was a soft, mottled red/orange brown, sands and gravels (004), interpreted as the natural horizon (Figure 4).
- 7.1.2 Truncating the natural horizon was a north–south running linear cut feature [003]. This ditch measured 1.80m–2.04m in width and 0.30m–0.55m in depth. The break of slope at the top of the cut were sharp with gently sloping concave sides. The break of slope at the base were rounded, with a flat base. The ditch was filled by a light blue brown slightly sandy silt of loose compaction [002]. A 0.5m slot was excavated at the northern end of the feature in addition to a 1m slot in the southern end. The fill included a large amount of sub-rounded pebbles and flint nodules, however no dating evidence was recovered. A 40 litre environmental sample <01> was taken from the southern ditch slot. The environmental sample was processed at the AOC Archaeology Group premises on the 17th June 2011. No artefacts or environmental data was recovered from the sample: the ditch fill is, therefore, considered sterile.
- 7.1.3 Post-dating the deposition of context (002) was a 1.04m–1.23m made ground deposit (001). This deposit was formed of loose, reddish brown loam with occasional 20th century ceramic building material (not retained). Truncating this deposit were a number of 0.5m diameter, 3m deep concrete piles associated with the mid-late 20th century structures which occupied the site prior to the investigation.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 During the course of the archaeological strip, map and record, a full sequence of deposits from natural through to the modern ground surface was recorded.
- 8.2 Natural was identified across the investigation area in the form of soft, mottled red/orange brown, sands and gravel. The natural sands and gravel was consistently encountered at a depth of 53.82 to 54.01m OD, in keeping with the relatively level topography on site.
- 8.3 The sole archaeological feature recorded during the investigation was a north-south running ditch [003]. No artefacts or environmental data was recovered from the ditch fill (002).
- 8.4 The line of the ditch does not respect any features identified on historic mapping (Ordnance Survey 1850 – 1977) and is considered to pre-date the late 19th century development of the site and wider context (1877-1881 Ordnance Survey, 1:2,500).

- 8.5 The ditch [003] is sealed by a loose, reddish brown loam with occasional 20th century CBM (not retained). During the 19th century, the site was developed as part of Lauriston House Estate, the stables of which survive to the north-west of the site. No evidence of this phase of activity was recovered within the investigation area. As such it appears that the ground was levelled in association with the construction of the the mid-late 20th century structure which occupied the site prior to development.
- 8.6 The features and deposits identified on site are of low archaeological significance. No features were identified which could be directly associated with the Prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity within the site boundary as the 20th century redevelopment of the site appears to have truncated earlier deposits.

9. Publication and Archive Deposition

- 9.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in the London Archaeological Round Up, and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).
- 9.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, finds and digital records will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Record Centre (LAARC). The archive will also be security copied and a copy deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR).

10. Bibliography

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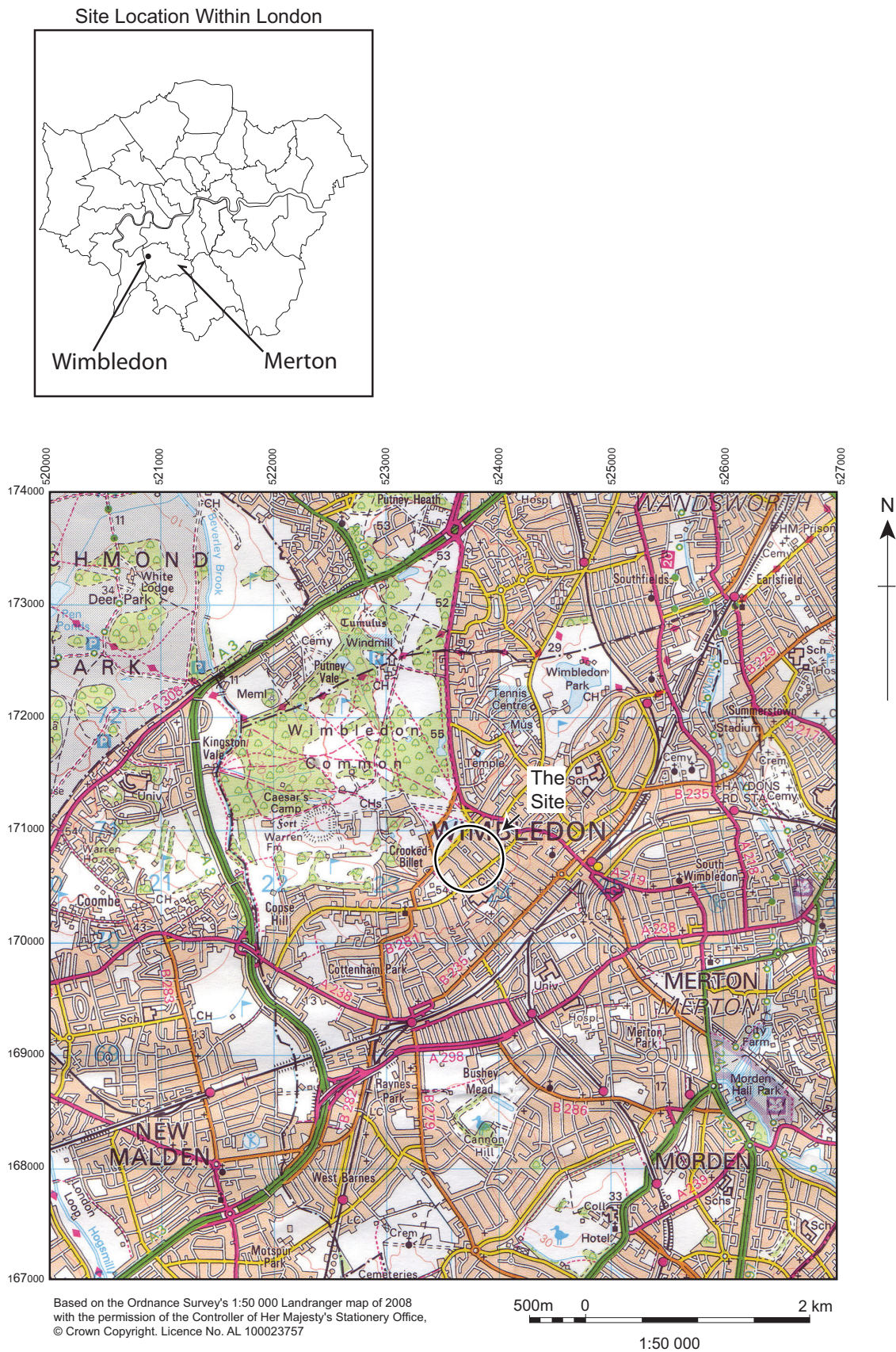
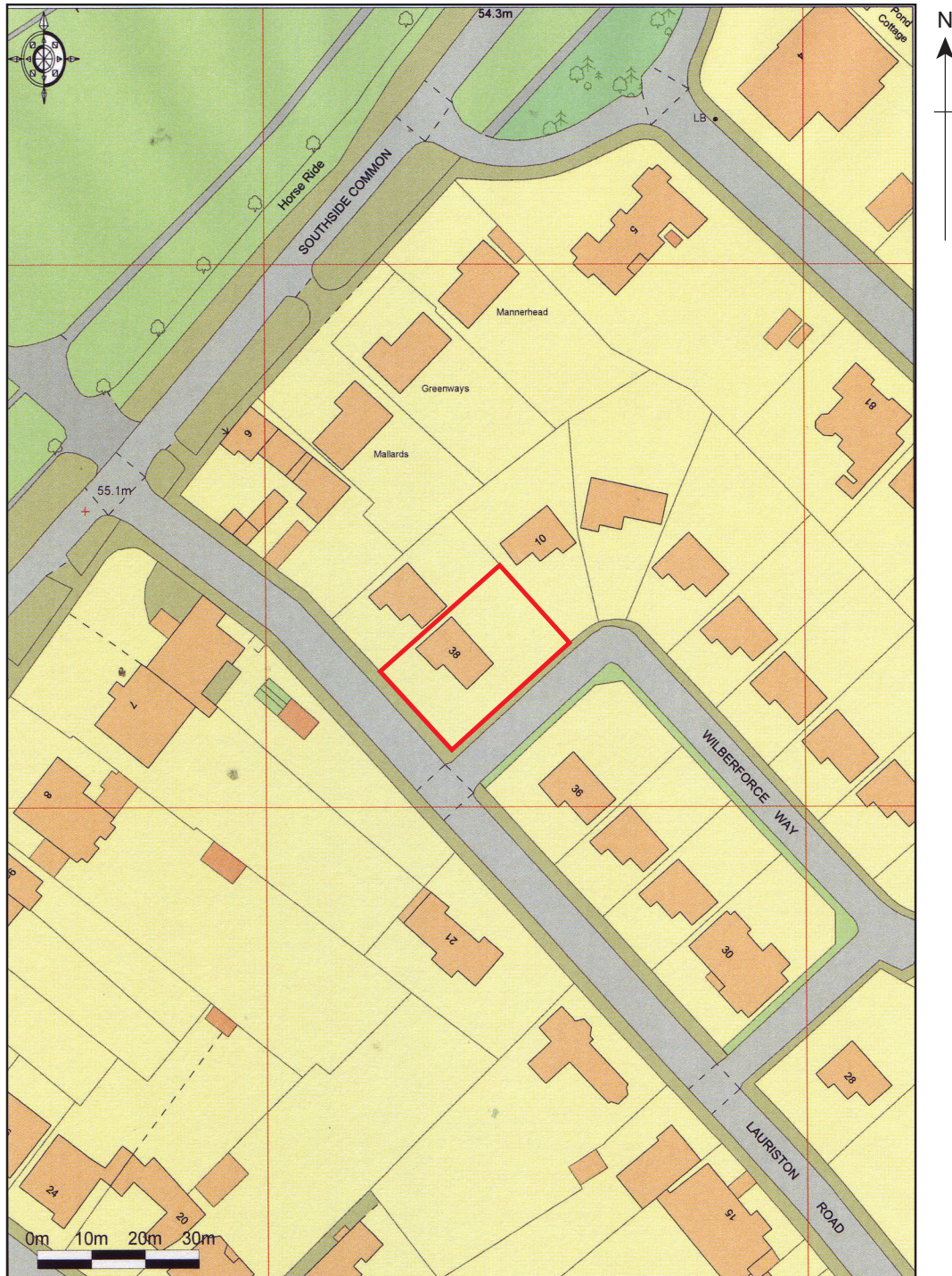


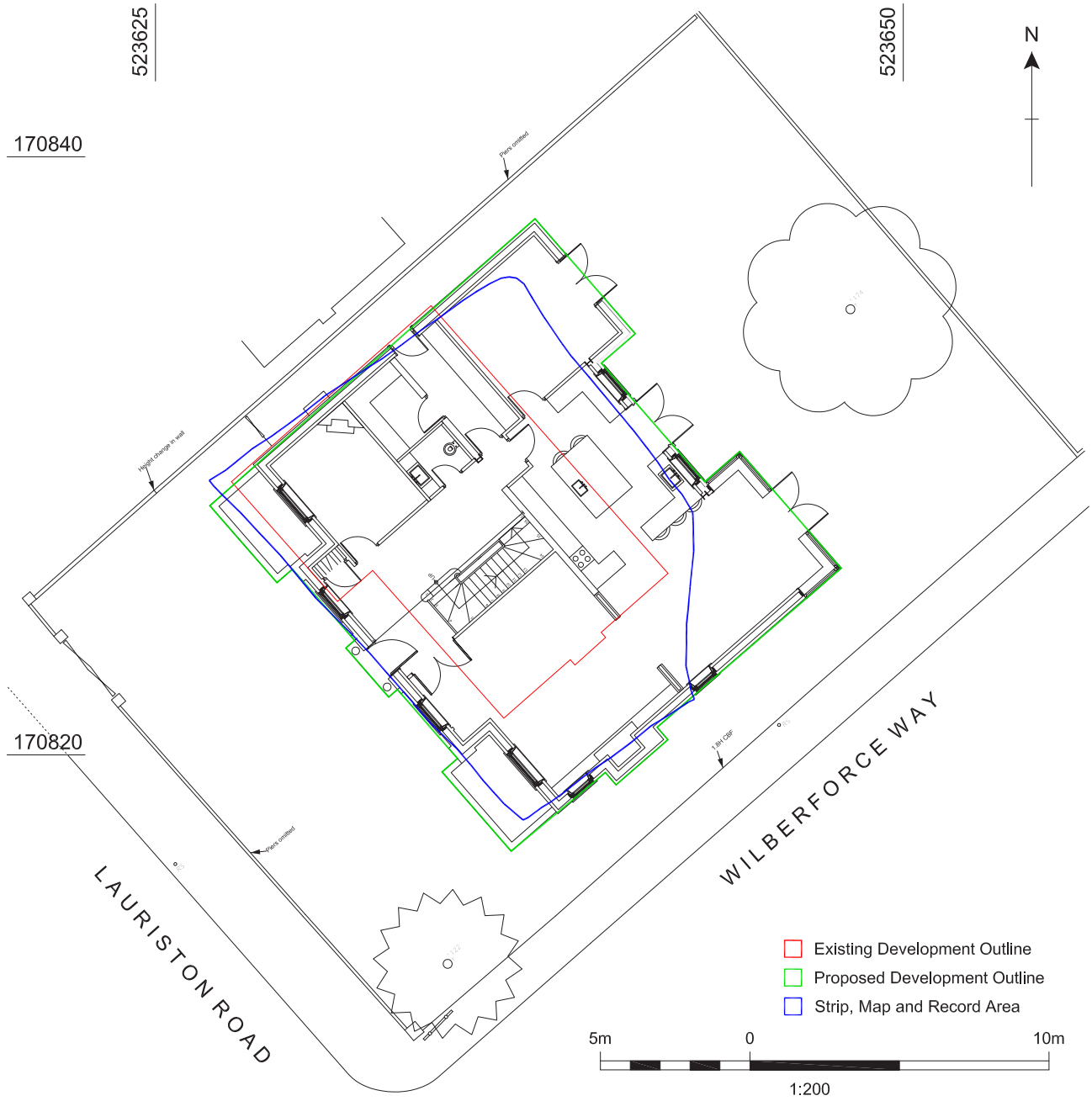
Figure 1: Site Location

38 LAURISTON ROAD, WIMBLEDON, LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD REPORT



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:1250 map of 2010 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location



Based on the Plan Produced by Hokien and Harper

Figure 3: Detailed Strip, Map and Record Area Location

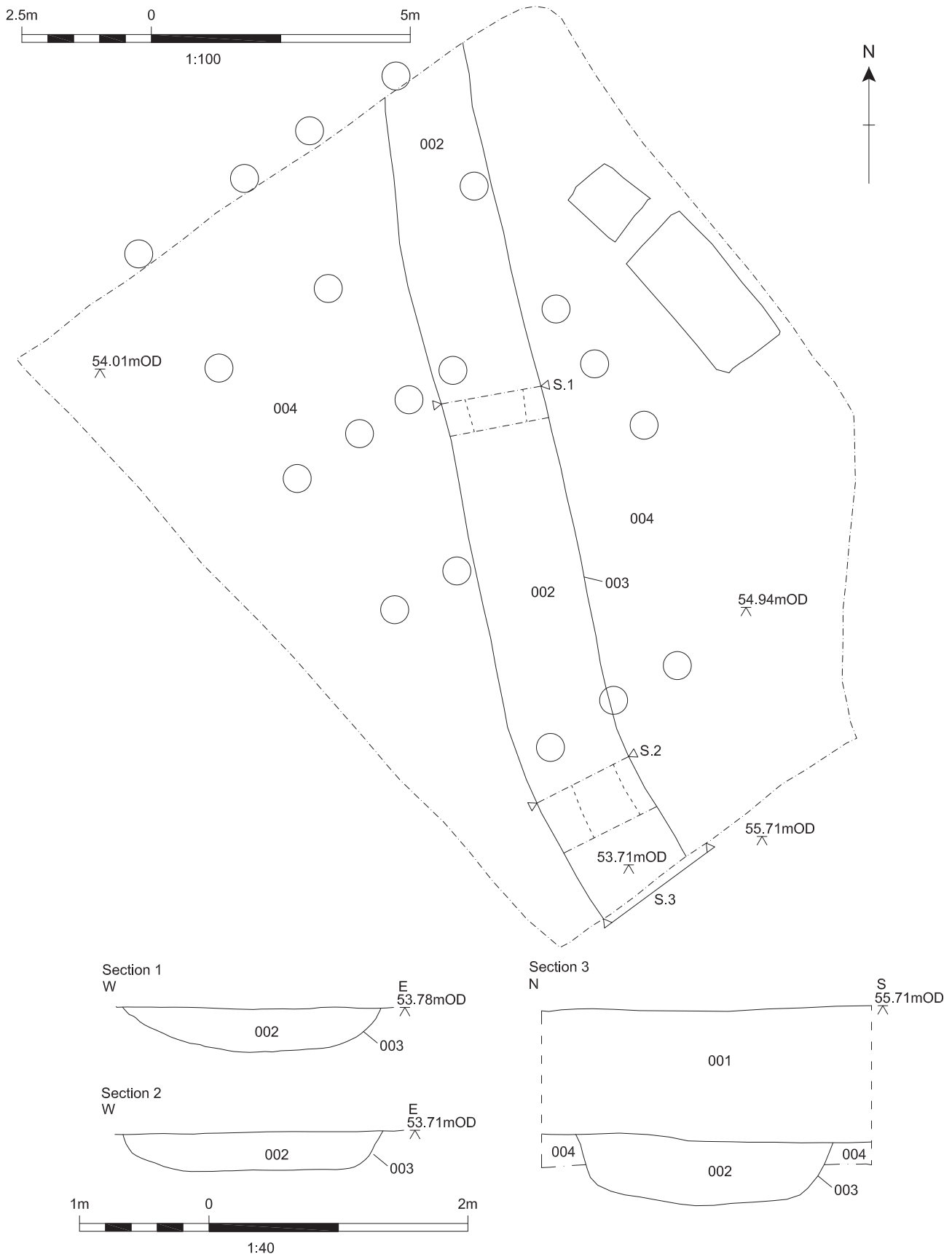


Figure 4: Detailed Strip, Map and Record Area Plan (1:100) and Sections (1:40)



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
001	Overburden: loose, reddish brown loam with occasional 20 th century ceramic and CBM	19m	14m	1.04 – 1.23m
002	Undated ditch fill: Light blue brown slightly sandy silt with freq sub rounded pebbles and sub-angular flint nodules.	20.5m	1.80 – 2.04m	0.30 – 0.55m
003	Cut of ditch (undated): North-south running linear, 2m wide 0.30m deep, exposed within full length of trench, concave side with rounded break of slope at base and flat base. Filled by (002).	20.5m	1.80 – 2.04m	0.30 – 0.55m
004	Natural: soft, red/orange brown, sands and gravels.	19m	14m	(NFE)

Appendix B – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-100078

Project details

Project name 38 Lauriston Road, Wimbledon

Short description of the project AOC Archaeology Group undertook a programme of archaeological strip, map and record at 38 Lauriston Road, Wimbledon, London Borough of Merton. The sole archaeological feature recorded during the investigation was an undated north-south running ditch cut into the natural sands and gravels. The ditch was sealed by a 20th century made ground deposit associated with the development of the site in the mid-late 20th century structure which occupied the site prior to development.

Project dates Start: 13-06-2011 End: 14-06-2011

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project codes LST11 - Sitecode reference

Any associated project codes 30987 - Contracting Unit No. reference

Type of project Recording project

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Significant Finds NONE None

38 LAURISTON ROAD, WIMBLEDON, LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP,
MAP AND RECORD REPORT

Investigation type 'Open-area excavation'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON 38 Lauriston Road, Wimbledon

Postcode SW19 4TQ

Study area 577.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 23752 70703 51.4213075990 -0.219985477261 51 25 16 N 000 13 11 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 53.82m Max: 54.01m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project originator brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project originator design AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Meklissa Melikian

Project supervisor Helen MacQuarrie

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Gregory Associates
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

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

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Edwards, C

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology Group

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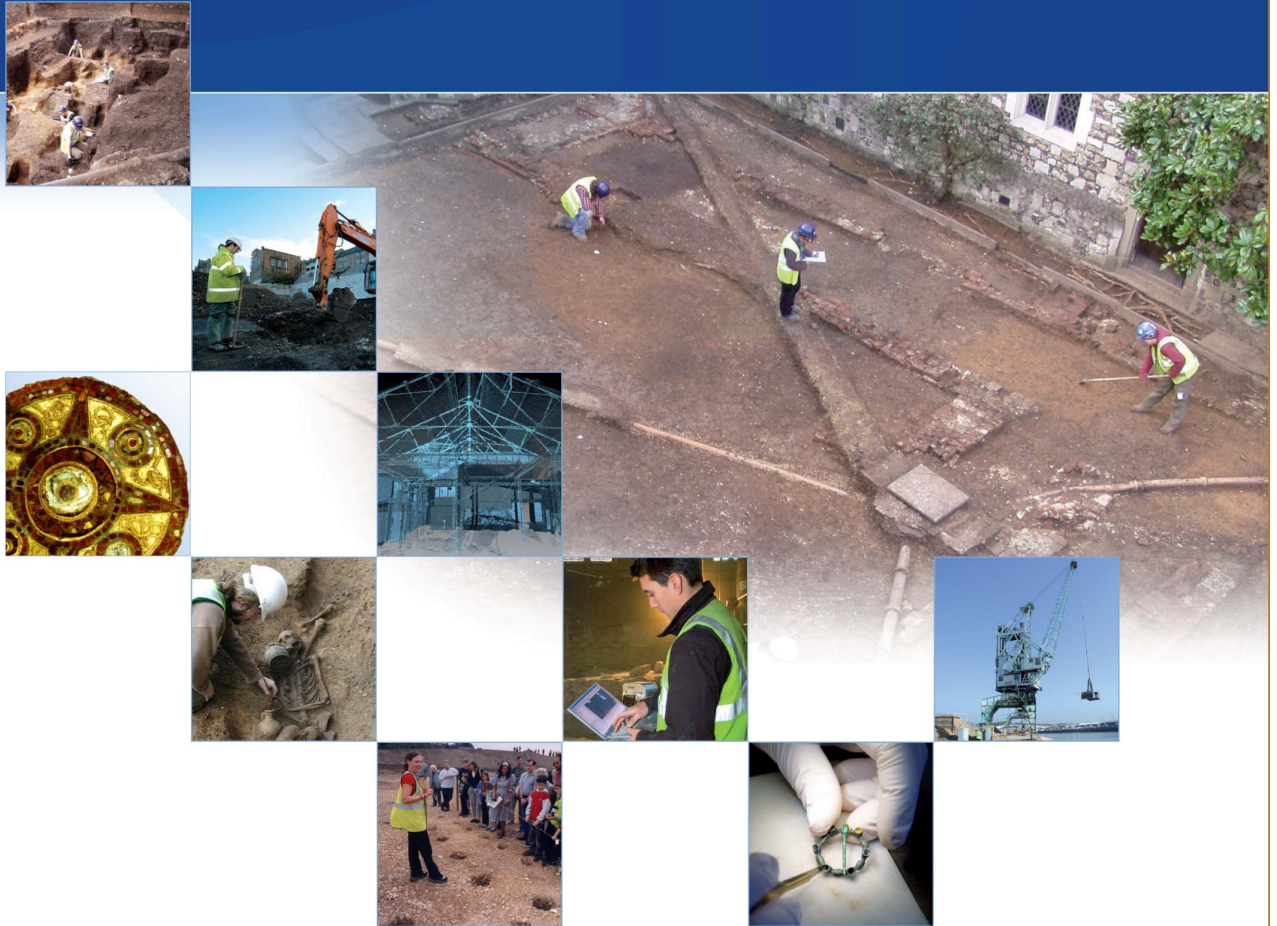
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