

# Blackheath Gates, Blackheath Avenue, Greenwich Park

## London Borough of Greenwich: Historic Building Report

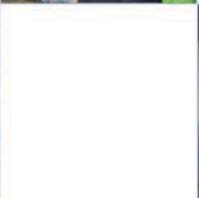
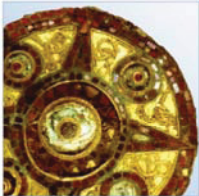
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Date: October 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Blackheath Gates, Blackheath Avenue, Greenwich Park, London Borough of Greenwich: Historic Building Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>The Royal Parks</b> Ranger's Lodge Hyde Park London W2 2UH
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>TQ 3922 7683</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>31077</b>
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## Summary

*A programme of archaeological recording at Greenwich Park, specifically the Blackheath Gates, was made in advance of proposed removal and re-erection of the gates and their brick piers in order to facilitate traffic movement in association with the Park's use during the London Olympic Games.*

*The gates are iron; the piers are constructed of brick and stone. Their capstones have suffered damage, presumably from vehicle strikes, and only one of the six piers is original, all others having been rebuilt following previous vehicle strikes.*

*Further work, in the form of an archaeological watching brief, will be carried out when the gates are relocated.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents the results of a programme of Historic Building Recording (HBR) carried out in advance of relocation of the gates at the southern entrance to Greenwich Park, known as the 'Blackheath Gates'.
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 3922 7683 (Figure 1) and are located at the entrance to the park off Charlton Way; the gates allow traffic through the park along Blackheath Avenue (Figure 2).
- 1.3 Although the park dates to the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, the gates themselves date to 1855, when a new gateway was constructed to replace an older wooden one
- 1.4 The recording was carried out to an enhanced Level 1 standard, as defined by English Heritage Guidelines (English Heritage 2006). A watching brief is due to be carried out during excavations for the relocation of the gate piers, in case significant archaeological remains exist that may be disturbed during the work.

## 2. Development Proposal and Planning Background

- 2.1 Greenwich Park is managed by the Royal Parks. The local planning authority is the London Borough of Greenwich. Archaeological and building advice to the borough is provided by Mark Stevenson, of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) and by Malcolm Woods, Historic Buildings and Areas Advisor, English Heritage.
- 2.2 The park and 14 associated elements are listed. Two archaeological monuments within the park are scheduled, and described in the historic background (Section 4). The main listed elements of the park are as follows, the descriptions taken from the listing entries (English Heritage 2011).
  - Greenwich Park. Grade I listed. A Royal park with its origins in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and formally laid out in the 1660s. Part of a mid 17<sup>th</sup> century restoration scheme was associated with the French designer Andre le Nôtre. The park was home of the Royal Observatory from 1676 to 1953, and, along with neighbouring properties and part of the town centre, is included on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites. NGR: TQ 39063 77268. List entry number is 1000174.
  - Greenwich Park is designated at Grade I for the following principal reasons:
    - \* as a Royal Park enjoyed and modified by kings, notably Henry VIII, James I and Charles II.
    - \* it forms the setting for a large number of listed buildings, most importantly Inigo Jones's Queen's House (now part of the National Maritime Museum) and Christopher Wren's Flamsteed House, the original Royal Observatory.
    - \* for the outstanding interest of some of its designed landscape elements such as the parterre and giant steps, an inter-related pair of garden earthworks, which form legible remains of the core of one of the earliest great formal gardens in the French style.
    - \* as the setting of a scheduled Roman temple and a scheduled group of Anglo-Saxon barrows, on a ridge overlooking the River Thames.
    - \* as part of the ensemble of historic features that contribute to the international significance of the maritime and royal heritage of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site.
  - Royal Observatory Flamsteed House. A Grade I listed building, built 1675-6 with later additions, attributed to Sir Christopher Wren. This is located at the north end of Blackheath Avenue, with a group of associated buildings.

- The Royal Observatory Former Great Equatorial building is Grade I listed, and dates to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- The Royal Observatory The Transit House is also Grade I listed and dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- The Royal Observatory Wall and clock to right of entrance gates is also Grade I listed.

2.3 Other parts of the park are Grade II listed. These include the following:

- A late 19<sup>th</sup> century octagonal bandstand.
- The boundary wall surrounding the park. Much of the original 17<sup>th</sup> century red brick walling, including piers with stone capping and dressed and moulded angles, remains.
- Two portions of boundary wall at west end of south side, Park Vista.
- St Mary's Lodge (in north-west corner of park).
- King William Walk: St Mary's Gate dates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

2.4 The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2011), approved by Mark Stevenson, GLAAS. It was 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).
- English Heritage - Archaeological Guidance Papers 2-4 London Region (EH 1998a-c)
- English Heritage (2006). *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*
- DoCLG – Planning Policy Statement (PPS5): Planning for the Historic Environment (DoCLG 2010)

### **3. Geology and Topography**

3.1 The site lies 1.5km from the south bank of the Thames, as it curves round the Isle of Dogs at Greenwich Reach. The British Geological Survey mapping (British Geological Survey, 1979) of this area indicates that the solid geology underlying the site and surrounding area is the London Clay formation. This is an Eocene marine deposit, laid down c. 55 million years ago. This is overlain by a superficial geology of the Blackheath beds, which have been eroded by the Thames along its current route, with terrace gravel and alluvial deposited nearer to the River floodplain. The site lies at around 44mOD, whilst Blackheath lies generally flat. To the south, the land drops away to Blackheath village.

## **4. Archaeological And Historical Background**

### **4.1 Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)**

4.1.1 The site lies on high ground above the Thames, and is potentially a good area of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic finds, the nearest finds on this side of the Thames are a flint flake nearly 2km away, at Thurston Road in Lewisham, and an Axe from Woolwich Church Street, 5km to the east. Evidence for activity in the Neolithic period is equally sparse, the nearest evidence being a flint flake from Blackheath Hill, a kilometre to the west. However, the lack of evidence may reflect the lack of opportunities to search for such finds. The Bronze Age and Iron Age are also barely represented locally.

## 4.2 Roman (AD 43 – AD 410) and Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066)

- 4.2.1 The principal Roman feature known within Greenwich Park is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (List entry number 1021439), which is a Romano-Celtic temple on the east side of Greenwich Park located partly on a prominent mound at the southern end of what is now Lover's Walk, between Lover's Walk and Maze Hill Gate (NGR TQ 39299 77417). The monument is sited in a prominent position at the head of a valley near the edge of the Greenwich escarpment overlooking the River Thames. An excavation on the mound in 1902 revealed a small structure of two phases accompanied by fragmentary inscriptions, part of a statue, fragments of two rare carved ivory pieces and large quantities of pottery, some of it imports from France. In addition, coins were discovered which had a date range from soon after the Roman conquest to the fifth century. The interpretation was that since the site was too small to be a villa, it possibly represented a shrine. Further Roman evidence was recovered during excavations in 1924-27, and geophysical survey in 1994 failed to locate other structures in the immediate vicinity. In 1999, excavations were carried out by the Museum of London and Birkbeck College with Channel 4's Time Team, which revealed more structural evidence on the mound and further features to the east of it suggesting a complex of buildings, ditches and metal surfaces.
- 4.2.2 Other evidence of Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the park includes the known remains of the route of Watling Street. This was the Roman road from the Kent coast to London, and is known to be located c.1km to the east of the park. If the road runs straight, it would continue through Greenwich Park. However, a straight line would take the road through marshland at Deptford creek, so it may have skirted the area.
- 4.2.3 On Blackheath, the Ordnance Survey recorded a rectangular earthwork in 1895 immediately northwest of Hollyhedge House. This was excavated in 1906 producing Roman tile and coarse pottery.
- 4.2.4 Some 50m to the west, in Dartmouth Grove, cremation burials were also found in pottery urns in 1803. Other evidence is limited to isolated finds of coins, building material and pottery. Additionally a bronze lamp was recovered from the Thames and a bronze bowl from the Park.

## 4.3 The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) Period

- 4.3.1 Anglo-Saxon activity in this part of the Greater London area dates to the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The name Greenwich is a Saxon place-name, denoting a *wic* or trading settlement. The settlement had direct access from the river, so was closer to the river than the park is. The park itself is the location of a Scheduled Ancient Monument; consisting of a barrow cemetery of at least 31 barrows. Their survival in southeast England is rare: they may have survived by virtue of their presence in parkland. The cemetery is located southwest of the Old Royal Observatory on high ground overlooking the River Thames. The barrows are set back from the edge of the Greenwich escarpment on a small natural rise 0.9m high; to the northeast the ground falls steeply into a deep valley cutting the scarp edge. The barrows are low mounds varying in diameter from 3.4m to 9.5m, and are from 0.1m to 0.7m in high. The barrow group forms a tight cluster, some less than 1m apart. Almost all the barrows show signs of disturbance, whether by excavation or tree roots. The Reverend James Douglas opened at least 20 barrows in 1784; only eight of these are described by him, and they contained primary burials some of which were in wooden coffins. Finds included an iron spearhead and knife and also a shield boss and textile evidence. A second cemetery may have existed in the vicinity of Queen's House, where human bones and a hanging bowl were found in 1860, but little is known about its location (English Heritage 2011).



- 4.3.1 The first written record for Greenwich lists the manor of *Grenevic* as a possession of King Alfred (AD 871-900) but in AD 918, the manor passed to the Abbey of St Peter's at Ghent.

#### **4.4 Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1536) Period**

- 4.4.1 Greenwich appears to have royal connections dating back to 1300, when Edward I made offerings at the Chapel of the Virgin Mary. In 1408, when Henry IV made his will, it was signed at Greenwich. In 1417, the Manor of Greenwich passed to Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester (brother of Henry V), and the in 1433 he was granted a licence to empark 80ha of land to make a park at Greenwich. Humphrey also built Greenwich Palace, on the banks of the Thames, in 1426. It became a favoured Royal residence, having been rebuilt in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century by Henry VII, and was the birthplace of the future Henry VIII. On the site later occupied by the Royal Observatory, Humphrey built a tower, first known as *Mirefleur* and later as Greenwich Castle.

#### **4.5 Post Medieval to Modern Periods (AD 1536 – c. 2011)**

- 4.5.1 James I gave Greenwich to his Queen, Anne of Denmark, in 1613 and in 1616, Inigo Jones was invited to build a new house for her. He chose the site of an existing 'Lodge Gate' in the wall running along the south side of the Deptford to Woolwich Road. Queen Anne died before the house (Queen's House) was completed. Much of the park was then enclosed within a red-brick wall which James I had built to replace the park fence. Originally c 3.5m high and c 3km long, the wall, including piers with stone cappings and dressed and moulded angles, is listed Grade II. Parts have been repaired or rebuilt at various later dates and at least one quarter of the boundary is defined by iron railings.
- 4.5.2 In 1629 Charles I gave Queen's House to his Queen, Henrietta Maria, and Inigo Jones resumed work. The 1660s saw the character of the park transformed from a medieval heath-land hunting park into a formal landscape with a grand garden and avenues. The new design reflected the French influence to which Charles II was exposed while in exile. Although others were largely responsible for the formal layout of Greenwich Park, at least part of the restoration scheme is associated with the French designer Andre le Nôtre (1613-1700) who worked on the gardens of Louis XIV at Versailles.
- 4.5.3 When Charles II concentrated his attentions on Hampton Court, he appointed Britain's first Astronomer Royal and engaged Sir Christopher Wren to design an observatory. After this period of activity little royal interest was taken in the park but it became increasingly popular with the public and pensioners from the adjoining naval hospital.
- 4.5.4 In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Greenwich Park underwent changes through encroachments and enclosures within the park, intensified public use, and other threats which prompted organised protests from local residents. The park became overgrown and undermanaged, so that repairs and alteration were needed. In 1853, paths were levelled and gravelled, and by the end of the century, new features included a bandstand, a refreshment chalet, two drinking fountains, public lavatories, a lake, flower gardens, and shrubberies. Vehicular traffic was first admitted to the park in 1875, restricted to the Blackheath Avenue and The Avenue. In the 1930s, Queen's House became the National Maritime Museum.
- 4.5.5 During the Second World War, anti-aircraft defences were constructed in the park to combat aerial assault and at least three air-raid shelters were built, with barrage balloons moored nearby. Allotments established during the 1940s continued in use until at least 1949.
- 4.5.6 In 1993, the Royal Parks Agency was established and given executive responsibility for managing and policing the Royal Parks, including Greenwich. In 1997, the whole park, along with neighbouring properties and part of the town centre, was inscribed onto UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

Greenwich Park is now a public open space and continues to be managed by the Royal Parks Agency.

## 4.6 Greenwich Park

- 4.6.1 The main entrance to Greenwich Park is to the south, from Charlton Way via Blackheath Gate. The plan made to accompany engravings by Francis Place to celebrate the opening of the Royal Observatory (Pepys' Plan, 1675-80) shows a gate in this position, and it appears to have been the main entrance. Blackheath Gate leads north-west onto Blackheath Avenue, a wide (c 15m), 600m long asphalt drive lined with double rows of horse chestnut trees. That avenue, the main axis of the site, was set out in 1660 and is aligned directly on the Queen's House. Four of the original 17<sup>th</sup> century sweet chestnut trees, part of the outer line of Blackheath Avenue, survive towards the north-west end. The present trees were partly planted in 1820, and supplemented from 1930 onwards. Blackheath Avenue terminates at the bronze statue of General Wolfe (listed Grade II) with the buildings of the Royal Observatory (listed Grade I and II) situated to the west of the statue. Numerous other gates provide entrances around the site, the most notable being the early 19<sup>th</sup> century St Mary's Gate (listed Grade II) to the north-west. St Mary's Lodge (1807-8, listed Grade II), built in the style of a cottage orné, is c 25m to the south-west of the Gate.
- 4.6.2 The site consists mainly of open parkland, the primary focus of which is the south-east/north-west axis from the Blackheath Gate along Blackheath Avenue down to the buildings of the National Maritime Museum (most of which is listed Grade I). Situated on the north-west boundary of the park, the principal building of this complex is the Queen's House. The main axis southeast from the Queen's House was then carried up the escarpment onto the Blackheath plateau via terraces that joined the upper and lower parts of the park. On the upper, Blackheath plateau, were double avenues of elms radiating off a *patte d'oie* (a garden feature of radiating paths that resembles a goose's foot).
- 4.6.3 The parkland is crossed by numerous paths many of which, like the Blackheath Avenue, originate from the 17<sup>th</sup> century layout. Occasional veteran sweet chestnut trees survive from this period. These are especially noticeable to the south and include those along the south end of Bower Avenue, which runs north from Blackheath Gates, and the south-west end of Great Cross Avenue, which crosses Blackheath Avenue c 400m north-west of the gate.
- 4.6.4 Level ground which extends either side of Blackheath Avenue, and which is bordered to the north-west by the Great Cross Avenue, includes a number of separate areas which have been developed from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. They include to the east, the 19<sup>th</sup> century Flower Garden with a small serpentine lake, and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century deer enclosure. These were made on the site of the 17<sup>th</sup> century 'Great Wilderness'. In the southeast corner of the park is a war memorial c.1920 (listed Grade II) which commemorates residents of the borough who lost their lives in both world wars.
- 4.6.5 To the south-west of Blackheath Avenue are the Ranger's Field, the Rose Garden and the reservoir. The Ranger's Field in the south corner was the site of the Little Wilderness Enclosed in 1806; the area was restored to public access in 1897 and since 1907 has been used as a sports field. Land not taken up by these areas retains remnants of 17<sup>th</sup> century plantings.
- 4.6.6 In 1855 new iron gates and fencing were erected at Blackheath entrance to the park, and the old gates of wood, one double for vehicular traffic and another single for pedestrians done away with (Webster 1902). The new gates comprise three pairs of piers, all constructed with a stone plinth, yellow stock bricks, and with stone caps. Each plinth is topped by a lantern. The central pair of piers is the tallest, and the gates they support are the most decorative. The two flanking pairs of piers are shorter. The six piers carry three sets of double gates for vehicular traffic; the outer piers carry single

gates for pedestrians. It is understood that the piers have been rebuilt several times since their construction (Malcolm Woods pers.comm.), and that while the stone caps and plinths are the original materials, not all the general brickwork is original.

## **5. Strategy**

### **5.1 Aims of the Investigation**

5.1.1 The aims of the Historic Building Record were defined as being:

- To make a photographic record of the gates and gate piers as standing.
- To record evidence for repairs and alterations as far as can be ascertained from ground level.
- To determine the date of any apparent changes.

5.1.2 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

### **5.2 Methodology**

5.2.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011). All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (IfA 2008).

5.2.2 The Historic Building Record conforms to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines (see section 2.4).

5.2.3 Prior to commencing work, a unique site code (BLA 11) for the project was obtained from the Museum of London, and used as the site identifier for all records.

5.2.4 The recording was carried out on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

5.2.5 The site work was supervised by Les Capon under the overall management of Melissa Melikian. The site was monitored by Mark Stevenson of GLAAS, and Malcolm Woods, Historic Buildings and Areas Advisor, English Heritage.

## 6. Historic Building Record

- 6.1 Blackheath Gates comprise three pairs of brick piers of the same style, but of different sizes. Two central pair of piers are the larger, two flanking piers are the smaller (Figure 3 and Plates 1 and 6). Five of the piers have been rebuilt during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, only one fully retains its original materials. The gate piers are mostly brick, with a Portland stone plinth, abacus and cornice. Each pier is surmounted by a lantern. The gates are iron. Between each pier is a granite slab forming a threshold, and the entire inner side is paved with granite setts to a distance of 1.65m. The roadward side to Charlton Way is tarmac.
- 6.2 Each gate pier has a stone plinth with an ogee-moulded base above. The shaft of each pier is square in profile, formed of brick, and rises to a thin stone abacus. Three further courses of brick form a frieze, and cornice is stepped and ogee-moulded with a flat top. On the top of each pier is a flat square stone base for a lantern. The lanterns are iron framed and glazed, painted black with gold finials.
- 6.3 The gates are constructed of wrought iron rods and rails, and furnished with spear-shaped finials at the top of each rod. The different parts of the gates are welded together, rather than being single units. The lower corners of each gate have plates welded over the joints that may be reinforcements or repairs. All gates open inwards to the park, and are secured open by iron rocking catches embedded in concrete (Plate 10).
- 6.4 The central pair of gates are the largest, mounted on the largest of the piers (Plate 3). From the base of the plinth to the top of the cornice, the piers are 3.81m high. The brick shaft is 0.88m square and constructed of yellow stock bricks. A comment from Malcolm Woods (pers.comm) regarding the piers was "that they have been rebuilt many times". The plinth is larger than the shaft, 1.08m square. A vertical incision in the outside side of each plinth marks the location of former electric light or gas supply to the lanterns (Plate 2). The plinths are generally worn on the corners. The western pier of this pair has notable damage to the southwest corner of the cornice, and less damage to the southeast corner. The eastern pier of the pair only has damage to the southwest corner of the cornice. The gates have a hard-wearing granite threshold with a central addition of concrete housing a slot for a closing bar. The central pair of gates have a curved iron toprail and are spanned by a double lock rail. The bottom rail is flat. The principal rods are topped by spear-shaped points. Subsidiary rods rise to the lock rail, and also have spear points. Those above the hanging stile are both damaged and bent. The hanging stile of each gate is affixed with two hinges to the post. These gates are usually kept closed, and span an opening of 3.30m.
- 6.5 The outer pair of piers are 3.28m high (Plates 4 and 5). The brick shafts have 0.68m square profiles, and the stone plinths are 0.86m square. Each plinth is cut by a channel for wiring or piping to the lanterns, since removed. The western pier of the western pair is the only original pier of the entire group, and is constructed of pale buff-yellow bricks laid in English Bond (Figure 4). The bricks are generally in good condition, with slight surface flaking and environmental sooting. This western pier is also the only pier to have an undamaged cornice. Its twin is chipped on the southeast corner. The eastern pair of piers have chips on the southwest corners of the plinths. One has also been dislodged from its setting, presumably by vehicle strike.
- 6.6 Each of the outer pairs of piers carry a single gate for pedestrian access (Plate 7). A worn length of granite is present at each threshold, and paved with granite setts beyond. The gate on each outer pair is similar to the central pair, with a double lock rail, and spears on subsidiary rods above it (Plate 9). The gates each have an outer top frame, and spear-points are set on this, rather than the top rail of the gate.

- 6.7 There are also pairs of gates hung between the centre piers and the outer pedestrian piers, and these carry the vehicular traffic (Plate 8). These gates span openings 3.22m wide, and are similar to the other gates in form. They have flat top rails with spear points above. The outer gate of each pair holds a central spear, which overlaps when the gates are shut. Two spears are missing from the western pair. These gates differ from the central and side pairs, in that there is no stone threshold, rather the granite setts continue up to the outer face.
- 6.8 The gate piers are furnished with street furniture which detract from the setting, although they are necessary to direct traffic flow. This has not prevented the piers from being damaged, however. Externally, there are no-entry signs, a 20mph sign, and a warning against unauthorised vans, lorries or coaches. Internally, there is a keep left sign, pointing traffic in the correct direction along Charlton Way.



Plate 1: Overview of Blackheath Gates from Charlton Way



Plate 2. Incised Route for Previous Cabling



Plate 3: Central Pair of Piers



Plate 4: West Pair of Piers



Plate 5: East Pair of Piers



Plate 6: Oblique View of Blackheath Gates



Plate 7: Pedestrian Gate



Plate 8: Vehicular Gate



Plate 9: Spear Point Detail of Gate Lock Rail



Plate 10: Rocking Catch

## 7 Conclusions and Interpretation

- 7.1 Blackheath Gates are not part of the 15<sup>th</sup> century emparkment of the land, nor the historic 17<sup>th</sup> century layout. They do, however, provide a decorative entrance from the Blackheath side of Greenwich Park. Their addition to the park perimeter dates to 1855, and were added as replacements of previous wooden gates. It is proposed that the gates be moved to reduce vehicular damage.. The gates will be relocated northwest along Blackheath Avenue, so this historic element will not be lost.
- 7.2 The practicalities of the use of the gates for different traffic are shown by their size and by the paving and setts used behind them: large granite slabs are used for the thresholds of the pedestrian gates and at the main, central entrance, whereas at the regularly used vehicular gates, a row of granite setts mark the threshold. This may be the result of replacement of cracked or worn blocks following heavy wear, the use of smaller blocks being a more practical replacement. At present, hundreds of cars drive into and through the park every day.
- 7.3 The most obvious damage to the fabric of the gates at present (2011) are the chips and scratches to the stone cornices. There is minimal damage to the piers of the pedestrian gates, more to the sides



facing the vehicular gates. Other damage to the piers is the result of erosion, particularly to the plinths and bases of each pier.

- 7.4 Only one of the gate piers is original, its shaft constructed of pale buff yellow bricks. The other shafts of the piers are all in stock yellow, indicating that apart from the re-used stone elements, there is no original fabric in the shafts.
- 7.5 The impact of relocating Blackheath Gates further within the park will be as follows. The most notable impact will be on their setting, changing the aspect from Blackheath and altering the character of the approach to Greenwich Park. However, it may be recognised that these gates are not part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century layout, dating to 1855, and of the supporting piers, only one is an original 1855 pier, the other five comprising 20<sup>th</sup> century brickwork following almost full repair and rebuilding. The impact to Greenwich Park by relocation of the Gates is therefore low.
- 7.6 The second impact will be on the underground soil horizons when the gate piers are relocated. Given the known archaeological remains in the park, there is the potential for Roman or Saxon remains to be disturbed. This will be mitigated by an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.
- 7.7 The third impact will be beneficial to the fabric of the gates. Their relocation away from the current tight turning circle and entrance to Greenwich Park should result in less vehicle strikes, and therefore, less damage.

## **8 Further Work and Publication**

- 8.1 A watching brief will be carried out during relocation of the gates, to adequately record elements of the gates not accessible from ground level, that may show evidence for repair. Any intrusive groundworks excavated for the relocated piers will also be monitored.
- 8.2 At a minimum, a short summary of the results will be submitted to the local archaeological round-up.
- 8.3 This report will be added to the grey literature available on the online ADS OASIS project (Appendix C).

## **9 Archive Deposition**

- 9.1 On completion of the project, the landowner will discuss arrangements for the archive to be deposited with the Museum of London. Following completion of the full extent of the fieldwork, the site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with the receiving museum. The excavation archive will be security copied and a copy deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR) before post-excavation analysis begins or as soon after as can be arranged.
- 9.2 The full photographic record will be deposited with the archive.
- 9.3 The site archive will comprise all environmental samples and written and drawn records. It is to be consolidated after completion of the whole project, with records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record. The archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990) and (Brown & AAF 2007).

## 10. Bibliography

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BLACKHEATH GATES, BLACKHEATH AVENUE, GREENWICH PARK, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH:  
A HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

Site Location Within London



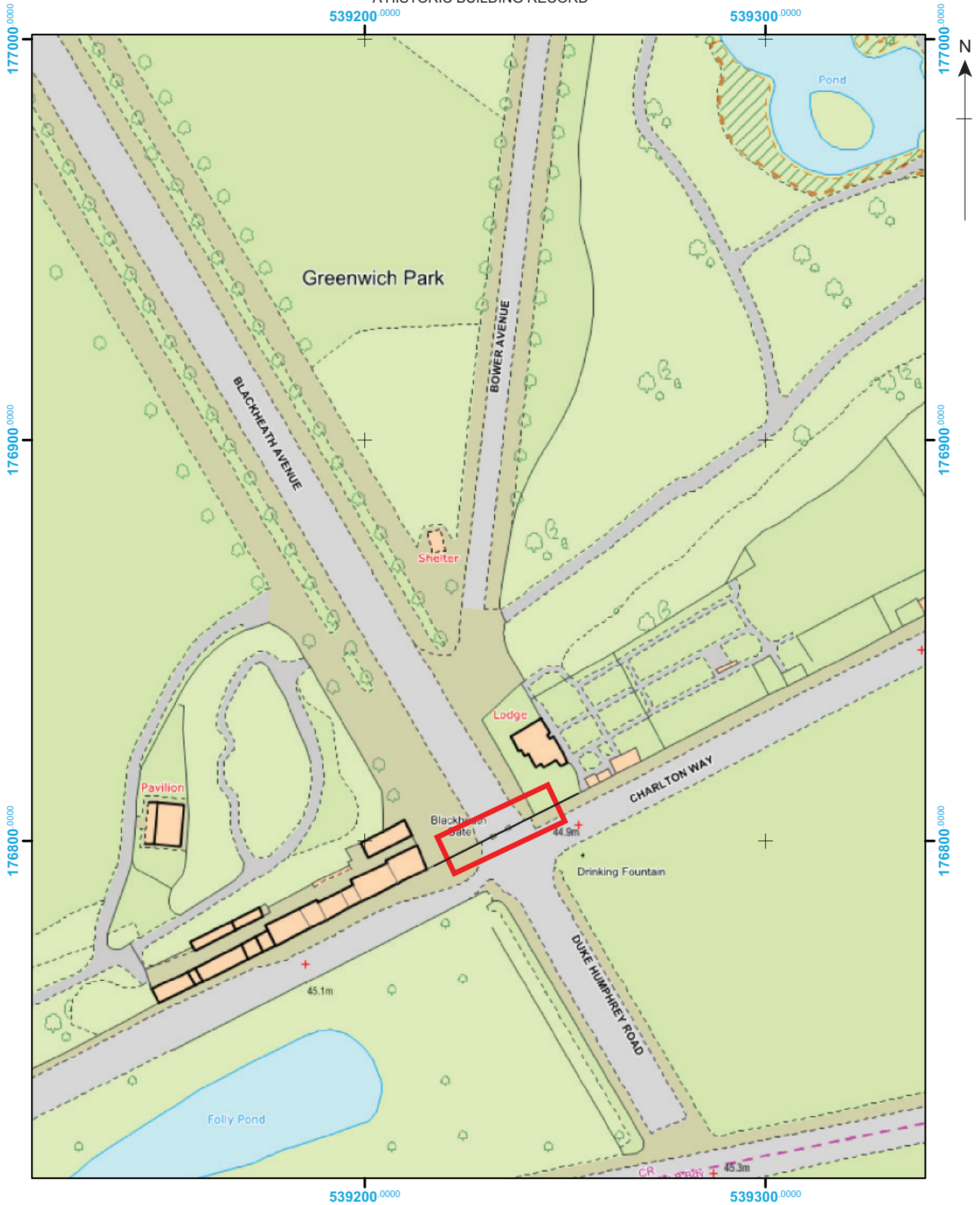
Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2004 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

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Figure 1: Site Location

BLACKHEATH GATES, BLACKHEATH AVENUE, GREENWICH PARK, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH:  
A HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:1000 map of 2011 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

**Figure 2:** Detailed Site Location

BLACKHEATH GATES, BLACKHEATH AVENUE, GREENWICH PARK, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH:  
A HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

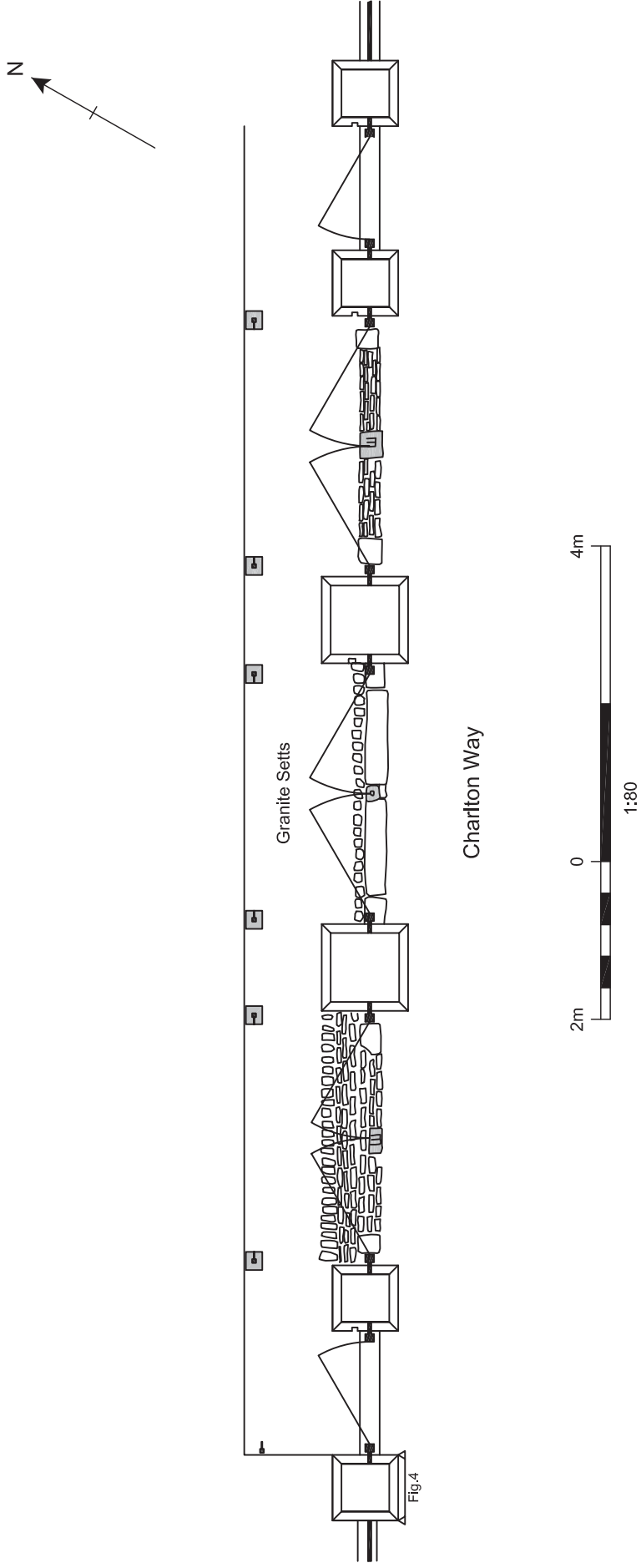
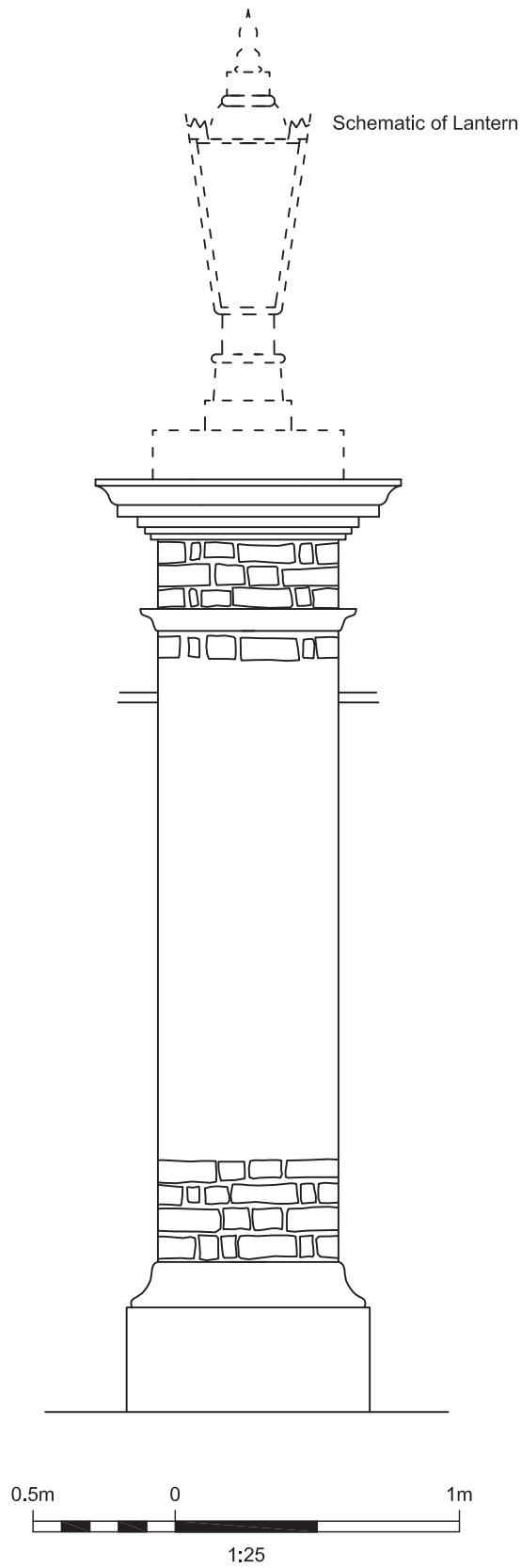


Figure 3: Detailed Plan of Blackheath Gates



**Figure 4:** Detail of Western Pier, South-facing

## Appendices

## Appendix A – OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-110329**

### Project details

Project name	Blackheath Gates HBR
Short description of the project	Historic Building Record plus Watching Brief of the 1855 Blackheath Gates at Greenwich Park during relocation
Project dates	Start: 26-09-2011 End: 27-09-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BLA 11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	30177 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	English Heritage List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	GATES Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Annotated Sketch', 'Photographic Survey'

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON GREENWICH GREENWICH Greenwich Park
Postcode	SE 10
Study area	60.00 Square metres



Site coordinates TQ 3922 7683 51.4727756774 0.00477485721557 51 28 21 N 000 00 17 E  
Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator English Heritage

Project design originator AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Melissa Melikian

Project supervisor Les Capon

### Project archives

Physical Archive No  
Exists?

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London

Digital Archive ID BLA 11

Digital Contents 'none'

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

Digital Archive notes held at AOC until transfer

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Archive ID BLA 11

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive notes held at AOC until transfer

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Blackheath Gates, Blackheath Avenue, Greenwich Park, London Borough of Greenwich: A Written Scheme of Investigation for a Historic Building Record and Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Capon, L.

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or London publication

### Project bibliography 2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Blackheath Gates, Blackheath Avenue, Greenwich Park, London Borough of Greenwich: Historic Building Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Capon, L.

Date 2011

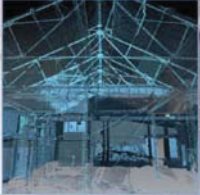
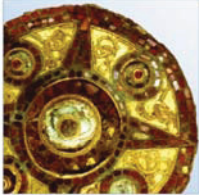
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