

Phipps Bridge, Mitcham, London Borough of Merton: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

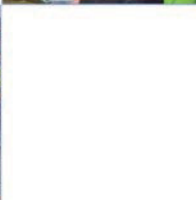
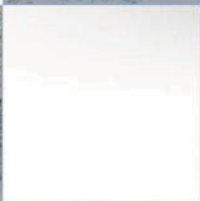
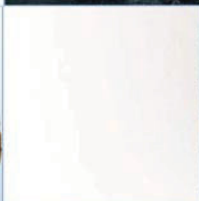
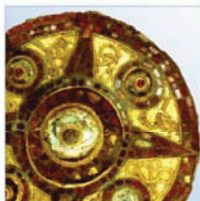
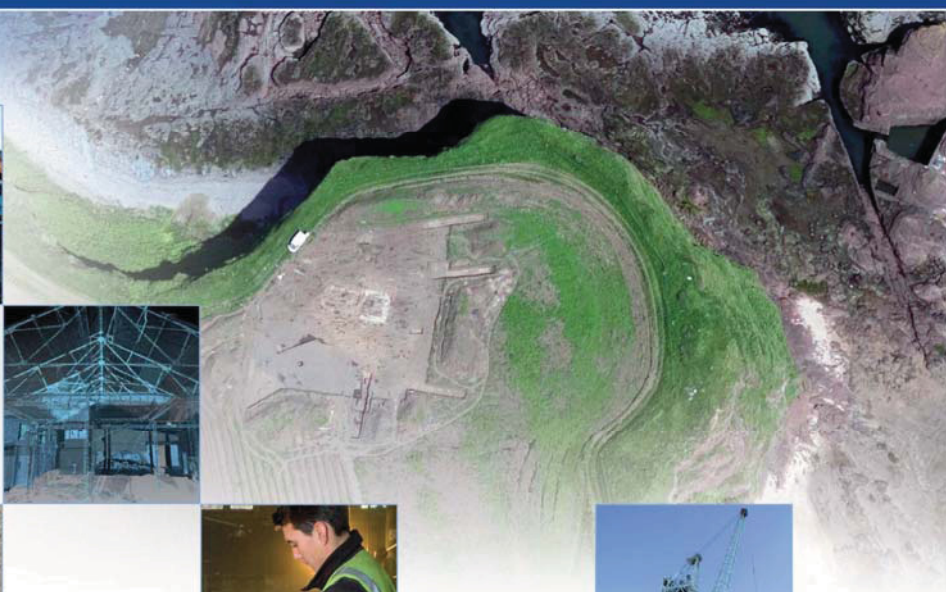
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Figure 2 - Detailed Site Location

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Non-Technical Summary

Between the 17th April and 16th August 2012 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief at Phipps Bridge, Mitcham, London Borough of Merton. The watching brief was commissioned by Mott MacDonald on behalf of Thames Water. The work comprised the recording test pits and trenches associated with the laying of a water pipe.

Natural deposits were not observed anywhere on site; the earliest deposits were modern made ground associated with the construction of the Phipps Bridge housing estate, the site appears to have been significantly raised at this time.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The site is located within The Phipps Bridge Estate, between 114 Belgrave Walk and 8 White Bridge Avenue in Mitcham, London Borough of Merton (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The works involved the repair of existing water pipes and the laying of new pipes; the monitoring was focused on the laying of a new water pipe (Figure 2). This included the excavation of entry, service and reception pits in areas where this pipe trench was drilled and open cut trenches in some areas.
- 1.3 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The nature of the works did not require planning permission; however it was deemed to be good practice to implement a programme of monitoring in light to the sensitive location of the site.
- 2.2 The site lies to the west of the centre of Mitcham, partially within the Mitcham Archaeology Priority Zone which marks the area of the historic settlement of Mitcham.
- 2.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for the site by Mott MacDonald (Mott MacDonald 2012) as part of the initial phase of the project.

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The underlying geology is of London Clay overlain by Taplow Formation sands and gravels (Mott MacDonald 2012).
- 3.2 The site is located to the north of the River Wandle at a height of approximately 20m OD.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The following background material has been mainly summarised from the Written Scheme of Investigation undertaken of the site by Mott MacDonald (2012).

Prehistoric

- 4.2 Despite its location, relatively little prehistoric activity has been noted close to the site; a group of Palaeolithic worked flints were found near Church Road, to the north of the site but no other finds have note have been recorded.

Roman

- 4.3 A low level of Roman activity has been found within 500m of the site, three inhumations were found during construction works in the north of the Phipps Bridge estate in 1966, two ditches containing Romano-British pottery was also noted. A series of ditches, possibly part of a field system were excavated on the junction of Church Road and Benedict Road to the northeast of the site.

Early Medieval and Medieval

- 4.4 The earliest historical reference to Mitcham dates to the 8th century, but activity dating from the Saxon period has also been found. The excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery between 1888 and 1922 is recorded in the GLHER (GLHER:030667/00/00). There were 230 known graves recorded three groups and many associated Anglo-Saxon burial goods dating the cemetery to the 5th/6th century. The cemetery was located approximately 250m south of the site in an area now under 39-83 Morden Road, Morden Gardens and Heatherdene.

- 4.5 The remainder of the records are largely related to land management dating from the early medieval period onwards. The records appear to focus in an area north of the site at Church Road where ditches, pits and boundaries dating from the medieval period have been identified during archaeological evaluations (MLO67678, MLO68152, and MLO99459). With similar evidence including ditches, gullies and pits dating to the post-medieval period (MLO68154). There are further records of similar activity relating to the medieval period onwards located to the south of the site in an area around Morden Road which includes evidence of medieval structures and land management (GLHER:021841/00/00).

Post-Medieval

- 4.6 The Victoria County History (Malden 1912) describes the chief industry in post-medieval Mitcham as 'physical gardens' where medicinal and aromatic herbs such as peppermint, lavender, camomile would have been grown, although these industries are recorded as diminishing by the time of the publication. The River Waddle south of the site is also recorded as being lined with mills at this time.
- 4.7 Historic maps of the area show that the present street layouts of Belgrave Walk and Gale Close are a modern development shown only on the 1976-1993 maps. Prior to this the area was a sports ground and area of rough grassland which had a track running southwest over the rail track. The track is now only present south of the White Bridge Avenue development. There were school buildings constructed by the time the 1914-1920 OS maps were surveyed and these still remain as Benedict Primary School. Earlier maps dating to the 19th century show the areas as agricultural fields and allotment gardens. The 1895 OS map shows some areas of gravel extraction to the north and south of the site which may relate to the worked and made ground recorded on the BSG map (1998).

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The objective of this archaeological watching brief was to record the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and characterise (nature, date, complexity and extent) any deposits which are located.
- 5.2 The specific aim of the watching brief was to establish whether there was any evidence related to the early medieval settlement of Mitcham.

6 Methodology

- 6.1 The watching brief was carried out between the 17th April and 16th August 2012. Monitoring was carried out on 30 test pits and trenches of varying size. The pits and trenches were excavated by a 3.5 tonne tracked 360 excavator under the constant supervision of an archaeologist.
- 6.2 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3rd Edition) (MoL 1994) and the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
- 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).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2008).
 - Rescue/United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – First Aid for Finds (3rd Edition) (2001).

- 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 sections and surfaces sufficient to establish the stratigraphic sequence exposed.
- A scan for dating evidence from in-situ deposits and spoil.
- Photographic recording of representative exposed sections and surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the groundworks.
- Written records on pro-forma sheets.
- Plans/Section drawings at suitable scales.
- A record of the datum levels of archaeological deposits, where obtainable.

6.5 A unique site code, PPB 12, was obtained from the Museum of London prior to the commencement of fieldwork. This was used as the site identifier on all records.

6.6 The investigation pits and trenches were accurately located to the National Grid.

6.7 The watching brief was undertaken by Ian Hogg, under the overall direction of Paul Mason, Project Manager. The work was monitored by James Segrue for Mott MacDonald, and by Diane Abrams on behalf of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).

7 Results

7.1 Test Pit 1

7.1.1 Surface of Test Pit = 18.32m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.32m	0.00m	(100)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.22m	0.10m	(101)	Concrete
17.97m	0.35m	(102)	Made Ground
18.77m	0.55m	(103)	Made Ground

7.1.1 Test Pit 1 was in the north of the site, on the junction between Belgrave Walk and Benedict Road; it was T-shaped and measured 3.90m x 1.00m (Figure 3).

7.1.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Test Pit 1 was made ground (103), this deposit was at least 0.30m thick and consisted of dark grey, ashy silty sand. This was overlain by a second made ground deposit (102); this consisted of loose, grey subbly silt 0.20m thick. Four services were recorded within this deposit; water pipe (104) was located in the north of the trench, and was made from iron, it was aligned east-west. Immediately to the south of the pipe was a gas main (105), this was plastic and 0.30m in diameter. In the centre of the trench were three electricity ducts (106), (107) and (108), all of the ducts were aligned east west and were 0.20m in diameter; ducts (106) and (107) were made from plastic while (108) was ceramic.

- 7.1.3 The services and made ground were sealed by a concrete sub-surface for the road (101), this consisted of orange concrete 0.25m thick; it was overlain by tarmac road surface (100) which was 0.10m thick.

7.2 Test Pit 2

- 7.2.1 Surface of Test Pit = 18.35m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.35m	0.00m	(200)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.25m	0.10m	(201)	Concrete
18.00m	0.35m	(202)	Made Ground
18.70m	0.65m	(203)	Made Ground

- 7.2.1 Test Pit 2 was located in the north of the site, it measured 2.00m x 0.60m in plan and was aligned north-south (Figure 3).
- 7.2.2 The earliest deposit observed was made ground (203) which was very similar to deposit (103) consisting of dark grey silty sand, 0.75m thick. It was overlain by loose mid grey rubbly silt deposit (202) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by the concrete road sub-surface (201) which was again 0.25m thick. The concrete was overlain by the tarmac road surface (200), 0.10m thick.

7.3 Test Pit 3

- 7.3.1 Surface of Test Pit = 18.37m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.37m	0.00m	(300)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.27m	0.10m	(301)	Concrete
18.02m	0.35m	(302)	Made Ground
18.72m	0.65m	(303)	Made Ground

- 7.3.2 Test Pit 3 was located in the north of the site, it measured 1.50mm x 0.60m in plan and was aligned north-south (Figure 3).
- 7.3.3 The earliest deposit observed was made ground (303) which was very similar to deposit (103) consisting of dark grey silty sand, 0.75m thick. It was overlain by loose mid grey rubbly silt deposit (302) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by the concrete road sub-surface (301) which was again 0.25m thick. The concrete was overlain by the tarmac road surface (300), 0.10m thick.

7.4 Test Pit 4

- 7.4.1 Surface of Test Pit = 18.31m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.31m	0.00m	(400)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.21m	0.10m	(401)	Concrete
17.96m	0.35m	(402)	Made Ground
17.61m	0.70m	(403)	Made Ground
17.11m	1.20m	(404)	Made Ground

7.4.2 Test Pit 4 was located in the north of the site, it measured 3.30m x 0.60m in plan and was aligned northeast-southeast (Figure 3).

7.4.3 The earliest deposit observed was made ground (403) which was very similar to deposit (103) consisting of dark grey silty sand, 0.75m thick. It was overlain by loose mid grey rubbly silt deposit (402) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by the concrete road sub-surface (401) which was again 0.25m thick. The concrete was overlain by the tarmac road surface (400), 0.10m thick.

7.5 Test Pit 5

7.5.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.29m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.29m	0.00m	(500)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.19m	0.10m	(501)	Concrete
17.94m	0.35m	(502)	Made Ground
17.64m	0.65m	(503)	Made Ground

7.5.2 Test Pit 5 was located in the north of the site, it measured 2.50m x 0.60m in plan and was aligned northeast-southeast (Figure 3).

7.5.3 The earliest deposit observed was made ground (503) which was very similar to deposit (103) consisting of dark grey silty sand, 0.75m thick. It was overlain by loose mid grey rubbly silt deposit (502) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by the concrete road sub-surface (501) which was again 0.25m thick. The concrete was overlain by the tarmac road surface (500), 0.10m thick.

7.6 Test Pit 6

7.6.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.33m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.33m	0.00m	(600)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.23m	0.10m	(601)	Concrete
17.98m	0.35m	(602)	Made Ground
17.68m	0.65m	(603)	Made Ground

7.6.2 Test Pit 6 was located in the north of the site, it measured 1.40m x 0.80m in plan and was aligned north-south (Figure 2).

7.6.3 The earliest deposit observed was made ground (603) which was very similar to deposit (103) consisting of dark grey silty sand, 0.60m thick. It was overlain by loose mid grey rubbly silt deposit (602) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by the concrete road sub-surface (601) which was again 0.25m thick. The concrete was overlain by the tarmac road surface (600), 0.10m thick.

7.7 Test Pit 7

7.7.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.35m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
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18.35m	0.00m	(700)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.25m	0.10m	(701)	Concrete
18.05m	0.30m	(702)	Made Ground
17.90m	0.45m	(703)	Made Ground
17.70m	0.65m	(704)	Made Ground

- 7.7.2 Test Pit 7 was located in the north of the site, it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. Two clay ducts were observed at the base of the test pit (705) and (706), each duct was aligned north-south and measured 0.60m in length and were 0.20m in diameter. The ducts were overlain by made ground deposit (704) a dark grey ashy sand 0.50m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by a second deposit of made ground (703) which consisted of loose grey rubbly silt 0.20m thick; this was overlain by another ashy made ground deposit very similar to (704), it was 0.15m thick. The made ground was sealed the road sub-surface of concrete (701), 0.20m thick and the tarmac road surface (700) which was 0.10m thick.

7.8 Test Pit 8

- 7.8.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.31m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.31m	0.00m	(800)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.21m	0.10m	(801)	Concrete
17.96m	0.35m	(802)	Made ground
17.66m	0.65m	(803)	Made ground

- 7.8.2 Test Pit 8 was located in the north of the site, west of Test Pit 7, it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. A drainage pipe set in concrete (804) was observed at the base of the test pit, it measured 0.60m in length, 1.00m in width and 0.50m in thickness. The drainage run was overlain by ashy made ground deposit (803), very similar to (704); it was 0.40m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (802) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub surface (801), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (800), 0.10m thick.

7.9 Test Pit 9

- 7.9.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.26m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.26m	0.00m	(900)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.16m	0.10m	(901)	Concrete
17.91m	0.35m	(902)	Made ground
17.71m	0.65m	(903)	Made ground

- 7.9.2 Test Pit 9 was located in the north of the site, west of Test Pit 8, it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (903), very similar to (704); it was 0.55m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (902) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub surface (901), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (900), 0.10m thick.

7.10 Test Pit 10

7.10.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.31m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.31m	0.00m	(1000)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.21m	0.10m	(1001)	Concrete
17.96m	0.35m	(1002)	Made ground
17.66m	0.65m	(1003)	Made ground

7.10.2 Test Pit 10 was located in the northwest of the site in Gale Close, west of Test Pit 15; it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (1003), very similar to (704); it was 0.55m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (1002) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (1001), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (1000), 0.10m thick.

7.11 Test Pit 11

7.11.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.30m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.30m	0.00m	(1100)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.20m	0.10m	(1101)	Concrete
17.95m	0.35m	(1102)	Made ground
17.75m	0.55m	(1103)	Made ground

7.11.2 Test Pit 11 was located in the northwest of the site, west of Test Pit 14; it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (1103), very similar to (704); it was 0.45m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (1102) which was 0.20m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (1101), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (1100), 0.10m thick.

7.12 Test Pit 12

7.12.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.29m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.29m	0.00m	(1200)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.19m	0.10m	(1201)	Concrete
17.94m	0.35m	(1202)	Made ground
17.69m	0.60m	(1203)	Made ground

7.12.2 Test Pit 12 was located in the northwest of the site, west of Test Pit 16; it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was made ground (1203), a mid brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions; it was 0.90m thick. The made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (1202) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (1201), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (1200), 0.10m thick.

7.13 Test Pit 13

7.13.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.31m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.31m	0.00m	(1300)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.21m	0.10m	(1301)	Concrete
18.01m	0.30m	(1302)	Made ground
18.66m	0.65m	(1303)	Made ground

7.13.2 Test Pit 13 was located in the northwest of the site, west of Test Pit 12; it measured 1.80m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was made ground (1303), a dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions, it was 0.70m thick. The made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (1302) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (1301), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (1300), 0.10m thick.

7.14 Test Pit 14

7.14.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.36m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.36m	0.00m	(1400)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.26m	0.10m	(1401)	Concrete
18.01m	0.35m	(1402)	Made Ground
17.71m	0.65m	(1403)	Made Ground
17.41m	0.95m	(1404)	Made Ground

7.14.2 Test Pit 14 was located in the north of the site, west of Test Pit 10; it measured 1.00m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was pale, soft white chalk made ground (1404); it was 0.40m thick. It was overlain by made ground (1403), a dark grey ashy silt, 0.30m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (1402) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (1401), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (1400), 0.10m thick.

7.15 Test Pit 15

7.15.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.37m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.37m	0.00m	(1500)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.27m	0.10m	(1501)	Concrete
18.02m	0.35m	(1502)	Made Ground
18.72m	0.65m	(1503)	Made Ground
18.62m	0.75m	(1504)	Made Ground

7.15.2 Test Pit 15 was located in the north of the site, west of Test Pit 9; it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was a dark grey ashy silt made ground (1504), 0.50m thick. It was overlain by pale, soft white chalk made ground (1503), 0.10m thick. The chalky made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (1502) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (1501), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (1500), 0.10m thick.

7.16 Test Pit 16

7.16.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.39m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.29m	0.00m	(1600)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.19m	0.10m	(1601)	Concrete
18.04m	0.35m	(1602)	Made Ground
18.74m	0.65m	(1603)	Made Ground

7.16.2 Test Pit 16 was located in the northwest of the site, west of Test Pit 11; it measured 1.00m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (1603), very similar to (704); it was 1.20m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (1602) which was 0.30m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (1601), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (1600), 0.10m thick.

7.17 Test Pit 17

7.17.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.36m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.36m	0.00m	(1700)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.26m	0.10m	(1701)	Concrete
18.06m	0.30m	(1702)	Made Ground
18.81m	0.55m	(1703)	Made Ground

7.17.2 Test Pit 17 was located at the western end of Gale Close, it measured 50.00m x 0.40m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (1703), very similar to (704); it was 0.45m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (1702) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (1701), 0.20m thick and the tarmac road surface (1700), 0.10m thick.

7.18 Test Pit 18

7.18.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.34m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.34m	0.00m	(1800)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.24m	0.10m	(1801)	Concrete
17.99m	0.35m	(1802)	Made Ground
17.74m	0.60m	(1803)	Made Ground

7.18.2 Test Pit 18 was located on the southern side of Gale Close; it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (1803), very similar to (704); it was 0.40m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (1802) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (1801), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (1800), 0.10m thick.

7.19 Test Pit 19

7.19.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.36m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.36m	0.00m	(1900)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.26m	0.10m	(1901)	Concrete
18.01m	0.35m	(1902)	Made Ground
17.76m	0.60m	(1903)	Made Ground

7.19.2 Test Pit 19 was located on the southern side of Gale Close; it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (1903), very similar to (704); it was 0.45m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (1902) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (1901), 0.20m thick and the tarmac road surface (1900), 0.10m thick.

7.20 Test Pit 20

7.20.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.24m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.24m	0.00m	(2000)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.14m	0.10m	(2001)	Concrete
17.89m	0.35m	(2002)	Made Ground
17.64m	0.60m	(2003)	Made Ground

7.20.2 Test Pit 20 was located on the southern side of Gale Close; it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (2003), very similar to (704); it was 0.50m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (2002) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2001), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2000), 0.10m thick.

7.21 Test Pit 21

7.21.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.25m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.25m	0.00m	(2100)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.15m	0.10m	(2101)	Concrete
17.90m	0.35m	(2102)	Made Ground
17.65m	0.60m	(2103)	Made Ground

7.21.2 Test Pit 21 was located on the southern side of Gale Close, it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (2103), very similar to (704); it was 0.55m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (2102) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2101), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2100), 0.10m thick.

7.22 Test Pit 22

7.22.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.21m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.21m	0.00m	(2200)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.11m	0.10m	(2201)	Concrete
17.86m	0.35m	(2202)	Made Ground
17.61m	0.60m	(2203)	Made Ground

7.22.2 Test Pit 22 was located on the southern side of Gale Close; it measured 1.40m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (2203), very similar to (704); it was 0.40m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (2202) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2201), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2200), 0.10m thick.

7.23 Test Pit 23

7.23.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.19m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.19m	0.00m	(2300)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.09m	0.10m	(2301)	Concrete
17.84m	0.35m	(2302)	Made Ground
17.59m	0.60m	(2303)	Made Ground

7.23.2 Test Pit 23 was located on the southern side of Gale Close; it measured 2.80m x 0.60m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (2303), very similar to (704); it was 0.55m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (2302) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2301), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2300), 0.10m thick.

7.24 Trench 24

7.24.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.35m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.35m	0.00m	(2400)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.25m	0.10m	(2401)	Concrete
18.00m	0.35m	(2402)	Made Ground
17.75m	0.95m	(2403)	Made Ground

7.24.2 Trench 24 was located on the western side of Belgrave Walk; it was an open cut section of trench measuring 112.00m x 0.40m, it was aligned north-south. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (2403), very similar to (704); it was 0.60m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (2402) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2401), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2400), 0.10m thick.

7.25 Test Pit 25

7.25.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.31m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.31m	0.00m	(2500)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.21m	0.10m	(2501)	Concrete
17.96m	0.35m	(2502)	Made Ground
17.71m	0.75m	(2503)	Made Ground

7.25.2 Test Pit 25 was located on the northern side of Belgrave Walk; it measured 2.00m x 0.40m. The earliest deposit observed was a firm mid brown silty clay made ground (2503); it was 0.40m thick. The clay made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (2502) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2501), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2500), 0.10m thick.

7.26 Test Pit 26

7.26.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.35m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.35m	0.00m	(2600)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.25m	0.10m	(2601)	Concrete
18.00m	0.35m	(2602)	Made Ground
17.75m	0.65m	(2603)	Made Ground

7.26.2 Test Pit 26 was located on the northern side of Belgrave Walk, it measured 1.40m x 0.40m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (2603), very similar to (704); it was 0.30m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (2602) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2601), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2600), 0.10m thick.

7.27 Test Pit 27

7.27.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.35m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.35m	0.00m	(2700)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.25m	0.10m	(2701)	Concrete
18.00m	0.35m	(2702)	Made Ground
17.75m	0.55m	(2703)	Made Ground

7.27.2 Test Pit 27 was located on the northern side of Belgrave Walk; it measured 1.40m x 0.40m. The earliest feature observed was a ceramic service duct, it measured 0.20m in diameter and was aligned north-south. The duct was sealed by ashy made ground (2703), very similar to (704); it was 0.20m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (2702) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2701), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2700), 0.10m thick.

7.28 Test Pit 28

7.28.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.38m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.38m	0.00m	(2800)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.28m	0.10m	(2801)	Concrete
18.03m	0.35m	(2802)	Made Ground
17.78m	0.55m	(2803)	Made Ground

7.28.2 Test Pit 28 was located on the northern side of Belgrave Walk; it measured 1.40m x 0.40m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (2803), very similar to (704); it was 0.20m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (2802) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2801), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2800), 0.10m thick.

7.29 Test Pit 29

7.29.1 Surface of Test Pit 18.36m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
18.36m	0.00m	(2900)	Tarmac Road Surface
18.26m	0.10m	(2901)	Concrete
18.01m	0.35m	(2902)	Made Ground
17.76m	0.75m	(2903)	Made Ground

7.29.2 Test Pit 29 was located at the southwestern end of Belgrave Walk; it measured 1.40m x 0.40m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (2903), very similar to (704); it was 0.40m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2901), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2900), 0.10m thick.

7.30 Test Pit 30

7.30.1 Surface of Test Pit 19.18m AOD.

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
19.18m	0.00m	(3000)	Tarmac Road Surface
19.08m	0.10m	(3001)	Concrete
18.83m	0.35m	(3002)	Made Ground
18.58m	0.60m	(3003)	Made Ground

7.30.2 Test Pit 23 was located on the northern side of Whitebridge Avenue, it was an open cut trench measuring 158.00m x 0.40m. The earliest deposit observed was ashy made ground (2303), very similar to (704); it was 0.55m thick. The ashy made ground was overlain by loose grey rubbly silt made ground (2302) which was 0.25m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete road sub-surface (2301), 0.25m thick and the tarmac road surface (2300), 0.10m thick.

8 Finds and Environmental Samples

- 8.1 No finds were retrieved from the test pits and no environmental samples were taken.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 During the course of the watching brief the nature and extent of the archaeological potential was observed, in addition to the associated disturbance of this potential.
- 9.2 Natural deposits were not observed anywhere on the site; the earliest deposits were modern made ground, overlying services. The made ground was sealed by the concrete and tarmac road. The site appears to have been raised significantly, probably during the construction of the Phipps Bridge Estate during the 1970's and 1980's. No significant finds were observed during the monitoring.

10. Publication and Archive Deposition

- 10.1 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).
- 10.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, finds and digital records will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).

11 Bibliography

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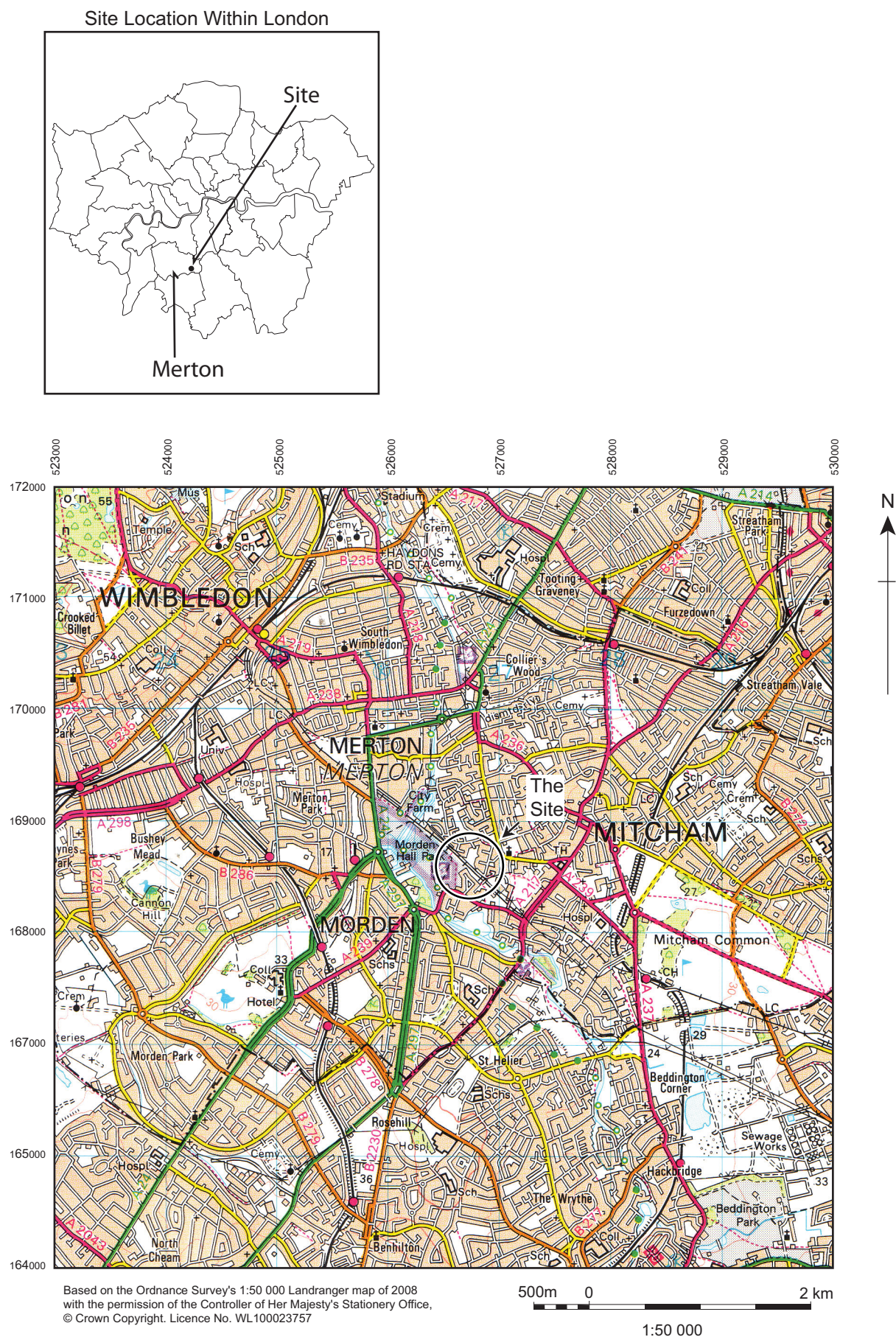
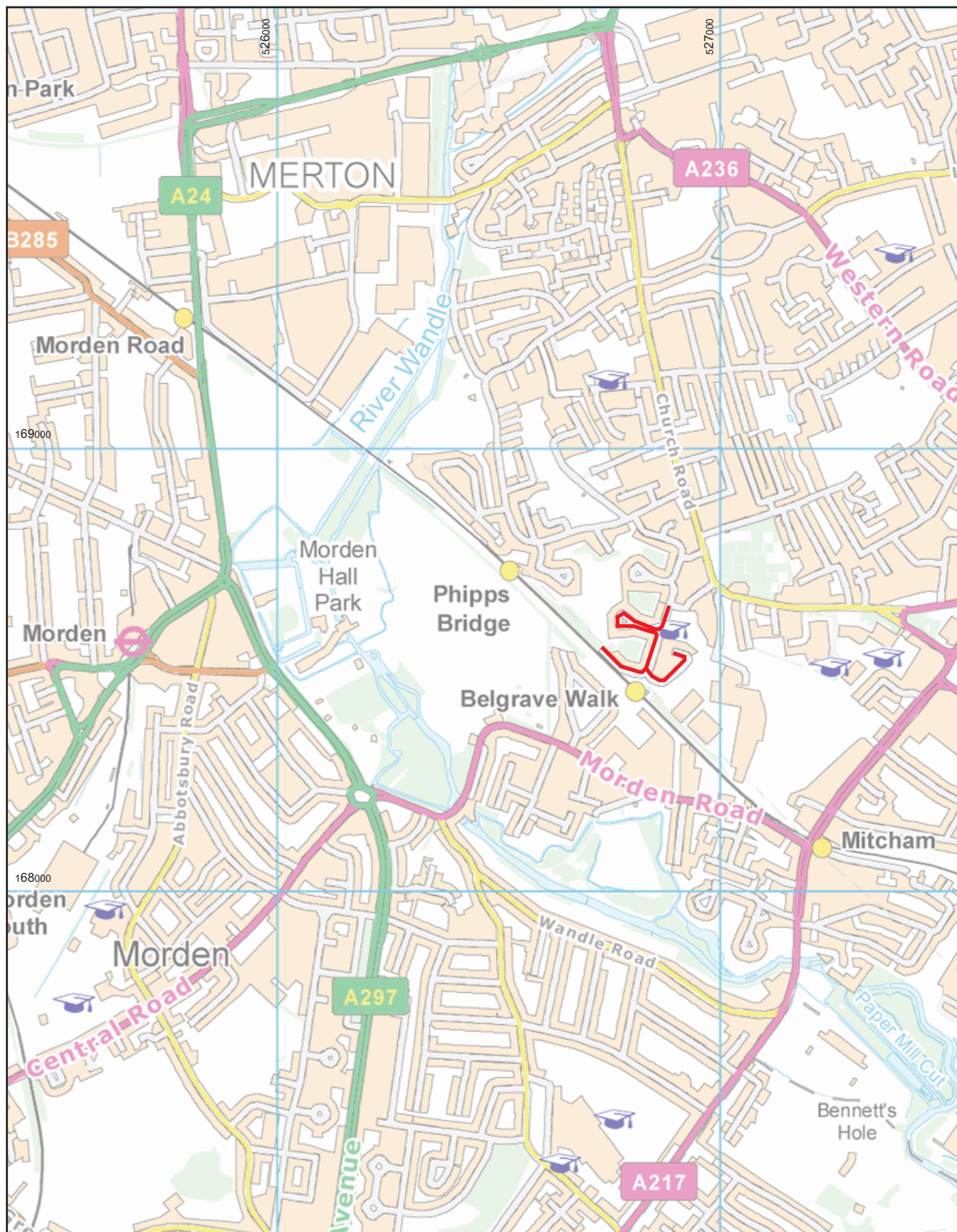


Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Ordnance Survey's Opensource map of 2012
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500m 0 500m
1:12500

Watching Brief Location

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

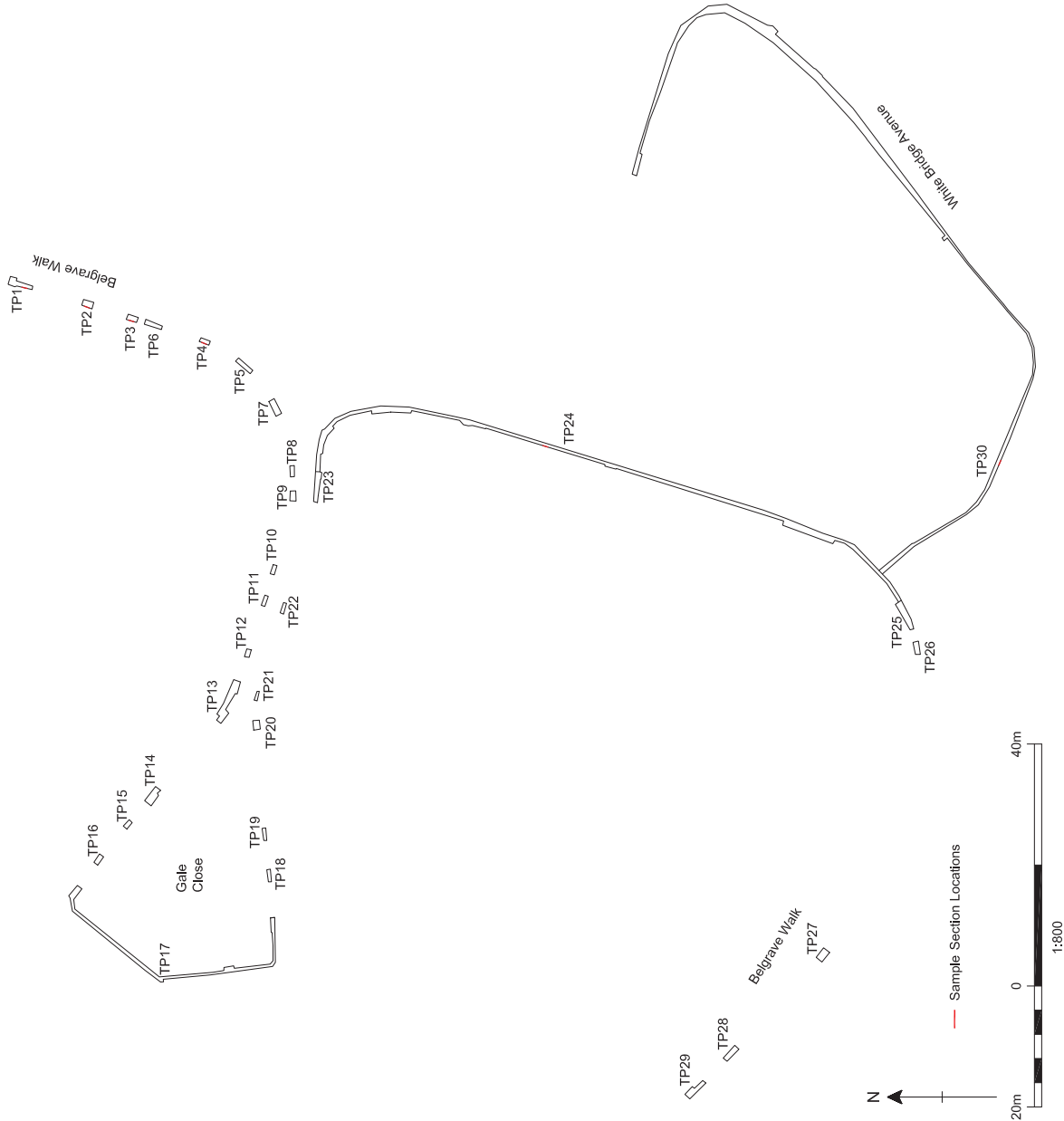


Figure 3: Watching Brief Locations and Sections

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Road surface	3.90m	1.00m	0.10m
101	concrete	3.90m	1.00m	0.25m
102	Made ground	3.90m	1.00m	0.25m
103	Made ground	3.90m	1.00m	0.30m
104	Water pipe	1.00m	0.20m	0.20m
105	Gas pipe	1.00m	0.30m	0.30m
106	Plastic duct	1.00m	0.20m	0.20m
107	Plastic duct	1.00m	0.20m	0.20m
108	Ceramic duct	1.00m	0.20m	0.20m
200	Road surface	2.00m	0.60m	0.10m
201	concrete	2.00m	0.60m	0.25m
202	Made ground	2.00m	0.60m	0.30m
203	Made ground	2.00m	0.60m	0.75m
300	Road surface	1.50m	0.60m	0.10m
301	concrete	1.50m	0.60m	0.25m
302	Made ground	1.50m	0.60m	0.30m
303	Made ground	1.50m	0.60m	0.55m
400	Road surface	3.30m	0.60m	0.10m
401	concrete	3.30m	0.60m	0.25m
402	Made ground	3.30m	0.60m	0.35m
403	Made ground	3.30m	0.60m	0.50m
404	Made ground	3.30m	0.60m	0.10m
500	Road surface	2.50m	0.60m	0.10m
501	concrete	2.50m	0.60m	0.30m
502	Made ground	2.50m	0.60m	0.30m
503	Made ground	2.50m	0.60m	0.50m
600	Road surface	1.40m	0.80m	0.10m
601	concrete	1.40m	0.80m	0.25m
602	Made ground	1.40m	0.80m	0.30m
603	Made ground	1.40m	0.80m	0.60m
700	Road surface	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m

701	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.20m
702	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.15m
703	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.20m
704	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.50m
705	Ceramic duct	1.40m	0.60m	0.20m
706	Ceramic duct	1.40m	0.60m	0.20m
800	Road surface	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
801	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
802	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.30m
803	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.40m
804	Drainage run	1.40m	0.60m	0.50m
900	Road surface	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
901	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
902	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.30m
903	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.55m
1000	Road surface	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
1001	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
1002	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.30m
1003	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.50m
1100	Road surface	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
1101	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
1102	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.20m
1103	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.45m
1200	Road surface	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
1201	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
1202	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
1203	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.90m
1300	Road surface	1.60m	0.60m	0.10m
1301	concrete	1.60m	0.60m	0.25m
1302	Made ground	1.60m	0.60m	0.30m
1303	Made ground	1.60m	0.60m	0.70m
1400	Road surface	1.00m	0.60m	0.10m
1401	concrete	1.00m	0.60m	0.25m
1402	Made ground	1.00m	0.60m	0.30m
1403	Made ground	1.00m	0.60m	0.30m
1404	Made ground	1.00m	0.60m	0.40m
1500	Road surface	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
1501	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m

1502	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.30m
1503	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
1504	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.50m
1600	Road surface			
1601	concrete	1.00m	0.60m	0.10m
1602	Made ground	1.00m	0.60m	0.25m
1603	Made ground	1.00m	0.60m	0.30m
1700	Road surface			
1701	concrete	50.00m	0.40m	0.10m
1702	Made ground	50.00m	0.40m	0.20m
1703	Made ground	50.00m	0.40m	0.25m
1800	Road surface			
1801	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
1802	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
1803	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
1900	Road surface			
1901	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.40m
1902	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
1903	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.20m
2000	Road surface			
2001	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
2002	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
2003	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
2100	Road surface			
2101	concrete	1.60m	0.60m	0.10m
2102	Made ground	1.60m	0.60m	0.25m
2103	Made ground	1.60m	0.60m	0.25m
2200	Road surface			
2201	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
2202	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
2203	Made ground	1.40m	0.60m	0.25m
2300	Road surface			
2301	concrete	1.40m	0.60m	0.10m
2302	Made ground	2.80m	0.60m	0.25m
2303	Made ground	2.80m	0.60m	0.25m
2400	Road surface			
		112.00m	0.60m	0.10m

2401	concrete	112.00m	0.60m	0.25m
2402	Made ground	112.00m	0.60m	0.25m
2403	Made ground	112.00m	0.60m	0.60m
2500	Road surface	2.00m	0.40m	0.10m
2501	concrete	2.00m	0.40m	0.25m
2502	Made ground	2.00m	0.40m	0.25m
2503	Made ground	2.00m	0.40m	0.40m
2600	Road surface	1.40m	0.40m	0.10m
2601	concrete	1.40m	0.40m	0.25m
2602	Made ground	1.40m	0.40m	0.25m
2603	Made ground	1.40m	0.40m	0.30m
2700	Road surface	1.40m	0.40m	0.10m
2701	concrete	1.40m	0.40m	0.25m
2702	Made ground	1.40m	0.40m	0.25m
2703	Made ground	1.40m	0.40m	0.20m
2704	Made ground	1.40m	0.40m	0.20m
2800	Road surface	1.40m	0.40m	0.10m
2801	concrete	1.40m	0.40m	0.25m
2802	Made ground	1.40m	0.40m	0.25m
2803	Made ground	1.40m	0.40m	0.20m
2900	Road surface	1.40m	0.40m	0.10m
2901	concrete	1.40m	0.40m	0.25m
2902	Made ground	1.40m	0.40m	0.40m
3000	Road surface	158.00m	0.40m	0.15m
3001	concrete	158.00m	0.40m	0.25m
3002	Made ground	158.00m	0.40m	0.30m

Appendix B – Oasis Form

Printable version

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-123144

Project details

Project name Thames Water at Phipps Bridge

Short description of the project The work comprised the recording test pits and trenches associated with the laying of a water pipe. Natural deposits were not observed anywhere on site; the earliest deposits were modern made ground associated with the construction of the Phipps Bridge housing estate, the site appears to have been significantly raised at this time.

Project dates Start: 17-04-2012 End: 16-08-2012

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference 32153 - Contracting Unit No. codes

Any associated project reference PPB12 - Sitecode codes

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON MERTON MITCHAM Phipps Bridge Estate

Postcode CR4

Study area 2.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 2685 6854 51 0 51 24 04 N 000 10 34 W Point

Project creators

Name of
Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief
originator Mott MacDonald

Project design
originator Mott MacDonald

Project
director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Project supervisor Catherine Edwards

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of
sponsor/funding Developer
body

Name of
sponsor/funding Thames Water
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive
recipient LAARC

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media
available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive
recipient LAARC

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media
available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

Entered by Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@aocarchaeology.com)

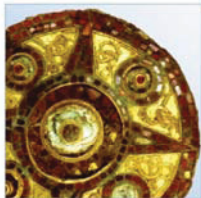
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