

9, Sion Road, Twickenham, London Borough Of Richmond Upon Thames: A Watching Brief Report

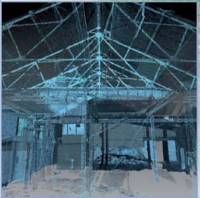
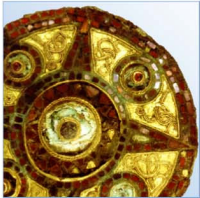
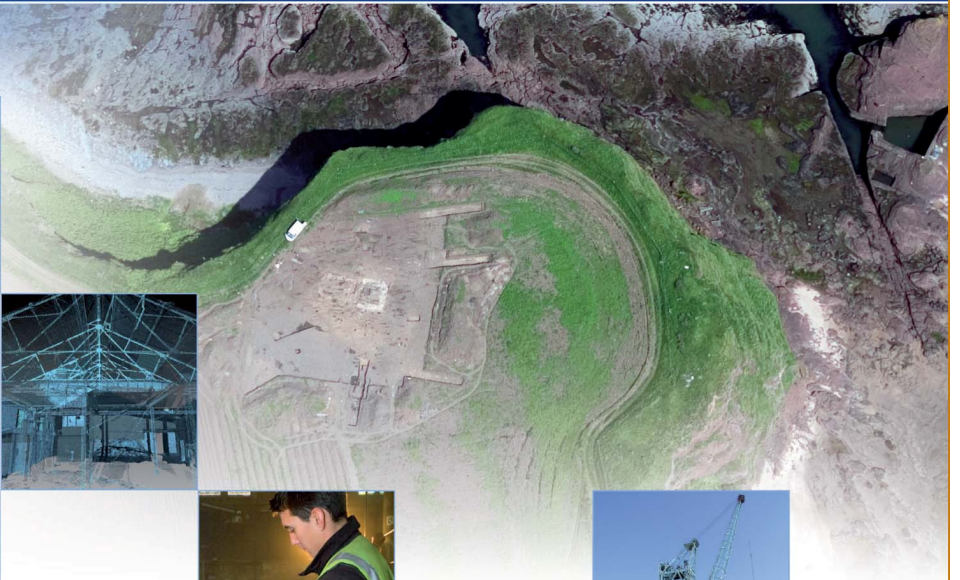
Planning Application: DC/JOW/05/0915/HOT/HOT

National Grid Reference: TQ 1665 7335

AOC Project No: 30226

Site Code: SIT13

Date: January 2013



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CONSERVATION

9, Sion Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames:

A Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Mr Robert Leigh, c/o Featherstone Leigh Ltd.,
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National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 1665 7335

AOC Project No: 30226

Prepared by: David Fallon

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Date: January 2014

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

Author: David Fallon

Date: November 2013

Approved by: Tony Walsh

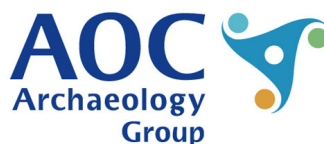
Date: January 2014

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group, on behalf of Featherstone Leigh Ltd between the 23rd and 29th of October 2013 at 9, Sion Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames. The Watching Brief monitored the ground-works on the site, specifically the hand excavation of the foundations for a set of steps and foundation trench for an extension to the rear of the property.

The area below 9, Sion Road had been heavily disturbed by the construction of the extant buildings and later underpinning of its foundations. The excavations for the wall foundation was through homogenous dark black brown clay silt made ground; while the excavation for the steps was through imported garden soils. The made-ground deposit had frequent inclusions of red brick fragments and modern debris.

Due to the lack of archaeological deposits it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The results of the Watching Brief will be summarised for inclusion in the Local Archaeology Round-up and published via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a Watching Brief Report setting out the results of a Watching Brief on the groundworks at 9, Sion Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1665 7335 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 Currently the site is occupied by a four-story building.
- 1.3 The site is bounded by other properties on Sion Road to the north and south, gardens to the east and gardens belonging to York House to the west (Figure 1). The development of the property involved the demolition of a single storey rear extension and minor alterations to the basement, ground and second floors. The alterations to the basement and ground floors were subject to archaeological monitoring.
- 1.4 This report details the methodology of the Watching Brief and its results. The Watching Brief monitored the area of the new steps and the return of the exterior wall foundation of the new extension (Figure 2).

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames. Archaeological advice is provided by Gillian King of The Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.2 In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the recommendations of GLAAS, an archaeological Watching Brief was carried out as part of a programme of archaeological works secured by condition.
- 2.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2008) was prepared as a method statement for the archaeological watching brief, which was approved by the monitor, Diane Walls, Archaeological Advisor to the LB of Richmond upon Thames.
- 2.4 This Watching Brief Report has been prepared to detail the results of the Watching Brief.
- 2.5 This project is a residential development involving the demolition of a single storey extension and minor alterations to the basement, ground and 2nd floors.
- 2.6 The archaeological investigation is required as part of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy, in order to safeguard anything of archaeological interest found during the refurbishment of the development.
- 2.7 The Watching Brief conformed to the requirements of NPPF and to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
 - English Heritage - Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
 - Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA 2008).
 - Institute of Field Archaeologists - Code of Conduct (IFA 2010).

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The development site measures c300m² in size and is currently occupied by a four-storey building situated between Sion Road and Ferry Road, in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (NGR TQ 1665 7335).
- 3.2 The solid geology of the site is London Clay (BGS 1998, Sheet 270), overlain by river terraces (1-4).

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 Prehistoric (c.500,000 BC to AD 43)

- 4.1.1 No previous archaeological investigations have occurred on the site. Only limited previous archaeological excavation has occurred in the immediate area. There are a number of entries in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) for archaeological features or chance finds within 500m of the site. The site is next to a Grade II* listed building and has a number of Grade II listed buildings in its vicinity.
- 4.1.2 There are nine entries in the SMR record on prehistoric sites and activity, dating from the Mesolithic period through to the Iron Age. Three entries account for Mesolithic evidence in the area; another three sites produced evidence of Neolithic occupation, and there is one entry on Bronze Age material and one on Iron Age material. Although there is no clear evidence of prehistoric settlement, the finds are indicative of human activity close to the watercourse of the River Thames throughout the prehistoric period.

4.2 Roman (c. AD43-450)

- 4.2.1 The site is situated at a significant distance from the bounds of the Roman settlement of *Londinium*. Little is known of Roman activity in the area; there are only three entries in the SMR for Roman finds.

4.3 Saxon and Medieval (AD 410 to c 1550)

- 4.3.1 There is little evidence for Saxon activity in the area. The only recorded site within the locale of the York House was a burial site on the opposite side of the Thames; from which several grave goods were retrieved, now stored in the British Museum.
- 4.3.2 Although Twickenham is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, it was included as part of the Manor of Isleworth.
- 4.3.3 In 1988 an excavation at Church Street to the south of the site identified a ten metre long drainage ditch dating from between the 14th century to the mid 16th century. The Church of St Mary was also established at around this time, approximately 100m to the west of the site.

4.4 Post-Medieval (c. AD 1486-modern)

- 4.4.1 Roque's map of 1745 depicts the settlement of Twickenham as still being fairly self-contained. The property of the estate is already demarcated by York Street to the north, Syon Row to the east and the riverside to the south.
- 4.4.2 By the 18th century Twickenham was already becoming a desirable area and this is reflected in the cartographic evidence, as the town began to expand.
- 4.4.3 Within close proximity of the site, several archaeological surveys, Watching Briefs and Excavations have been conducted. Most of the remains identified have dated to the 18th and 19th centuries in a variety of forms including pits, made ground, building remains and garden soils.

- 4.4.4 Just to the west of the site is York House a Grade II Listed Building, including the house, gardens, walls, wrought-iron gates and boundary walls along Sion Road and Riverside. The fountain at the west end of the gardens is separately Grade II Listed.
- 4.4.5 York House was originally built in the 17th century by Andrew Pitcairne. The central block is a symmetrical three-storey building with shuttered windows. The wings are later additions dating from the 18th – late 19th/early 20th century.
- 4.4.6 York House is also said to have been one of the earliest manor houses in the area of Twickenham.

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.
- 5.2 The specific objectives of the Watching Brief were:
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To determine the presence of Pre-historic activity.
 - Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phases of late post-medieval and modern activity on the site.
- 5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 Methodology

- 6.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2008). All work was carried out in accordance with national guidelines (IfA 2008, IfA 2010).
- 6.2 Insurances, copyright, confidentiality and standards are defined in Appendix A.
- 6.3 The London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) provided a unique site code: **(SIT 08)**. This was retained as the site identifier for the watching brief.
- 6.4 David Fallon (Supervisor) conducted the Watching Brief under the overall direction of Tony Walsh, Project Manager of AOC Archaeology Group.
- 6.5 The Watching Brief monitored ground clearance works for the new development including excavation for steps to the basement of the property to the northwest and the excavation of a foundation trench for an extension at the north east.
- 6.6 Gillian King of The Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), monitored the Watching Brief on behalf of Richmond Council.

7 Results

- 7.1 The Watching Brief successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and the archaeological potential of the site.
- 7.2 The ground below 9, Sion Road had been disturbed extensively by previous work particularly the underpinning of the existing footings with concrete.



Plate 1: Area excavated for steps to basement looking southwest

- 7.3 The excavations for the steps was 1.10m north-south by 0.80m east-west and 1.05m deep (Plate 1). The excavations revealed a disturbed deposit of black clay silt ,interpreted as an imported garden soil. At the bottom of the excavation was a live ceramic waste water pipe.



Plate 2: Section of foundation trench looking southeast

- 7.4 The excavation of the wall foundation measured 1.85m east-west x 0.55m north -south x 1.05m deep (Plates 2 and 3). This was through a disturbed deposit of clay silt that contained fragments of 18th century brick, interpreted as made ground. At the base of the trench a further sondage, 0.5m square, was excavated to establish the depth of the foundations of the existing building (Plate 4). The made ground continued down to 1.45m below ground level where a layer of concrete was identified.



Plate 3: Foundation trench looking southeast



Plate 4: Test pit through bottom of foundation trench looking southwest

- 7.5 No archaeological features were observed during the Watching Brief.
- 7.6 Due to the absence of archaeological deposits it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The final decision in regards to the requirement for further archaeological fieldwork lies with Gillian King of GLAAS,, archaeological advisor to Richmond Planning Authority.

8 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 Archaeology Round Up and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).
- 9.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, and digital records, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).

9 Bibliography

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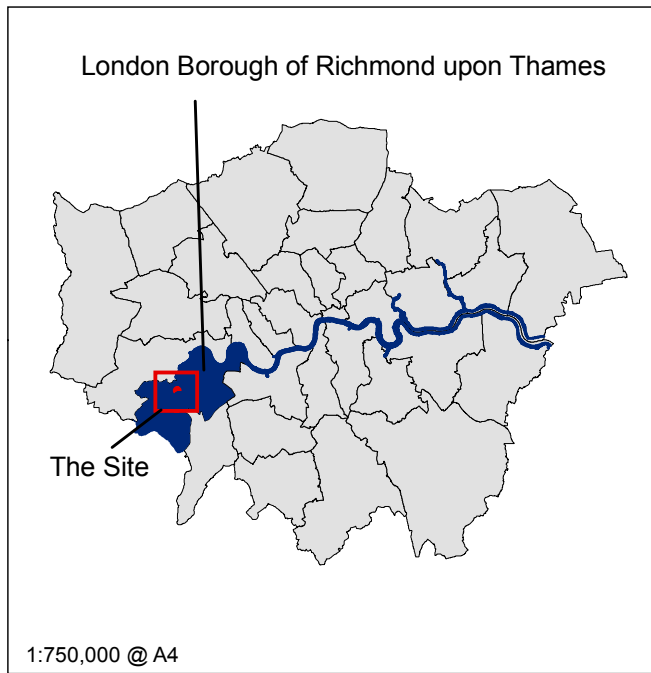
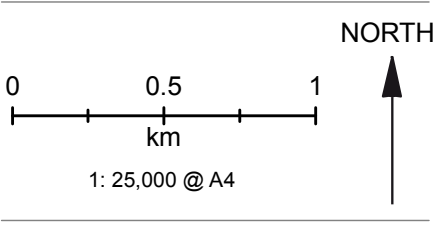
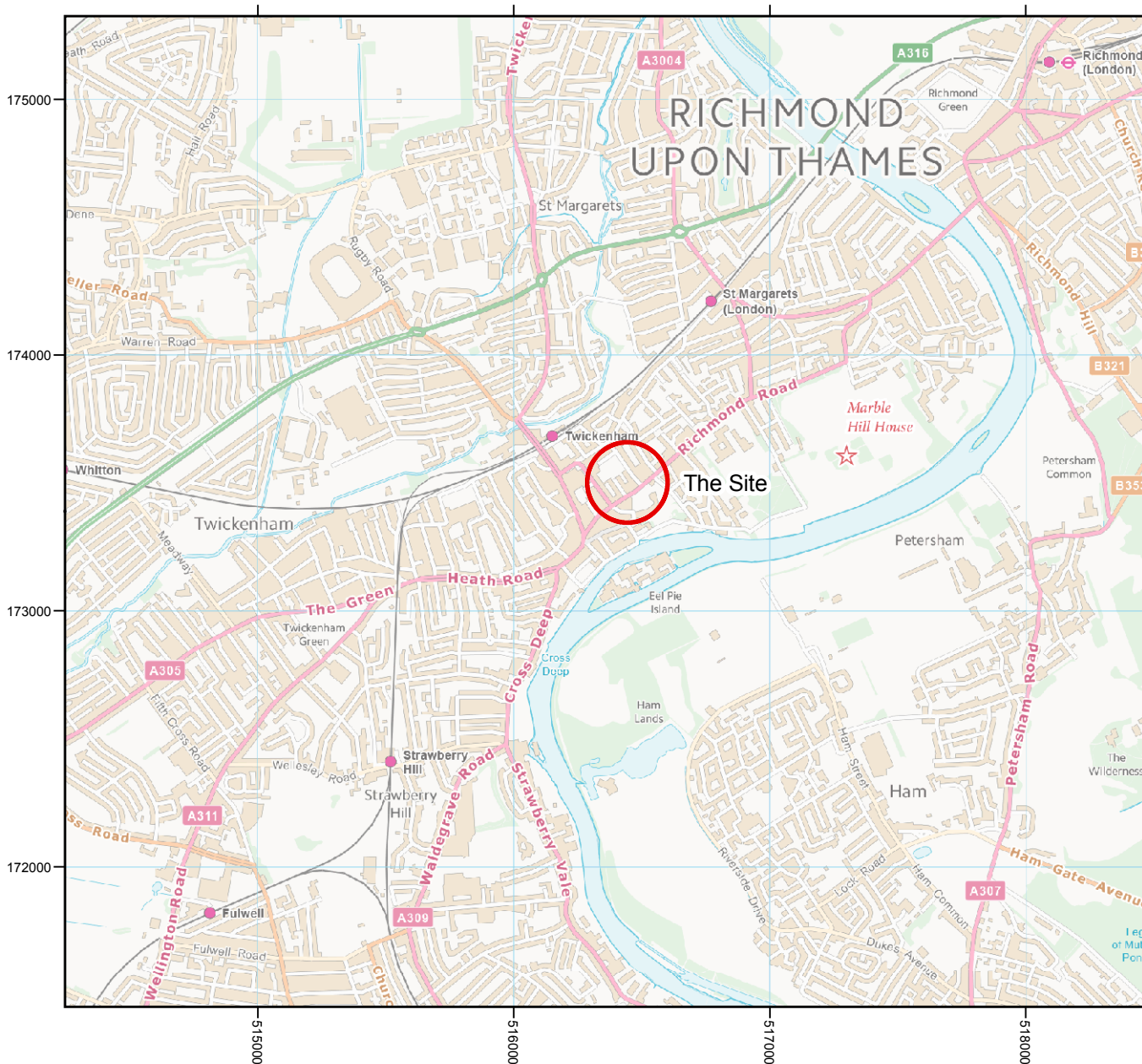


Figure 1:
Site Location



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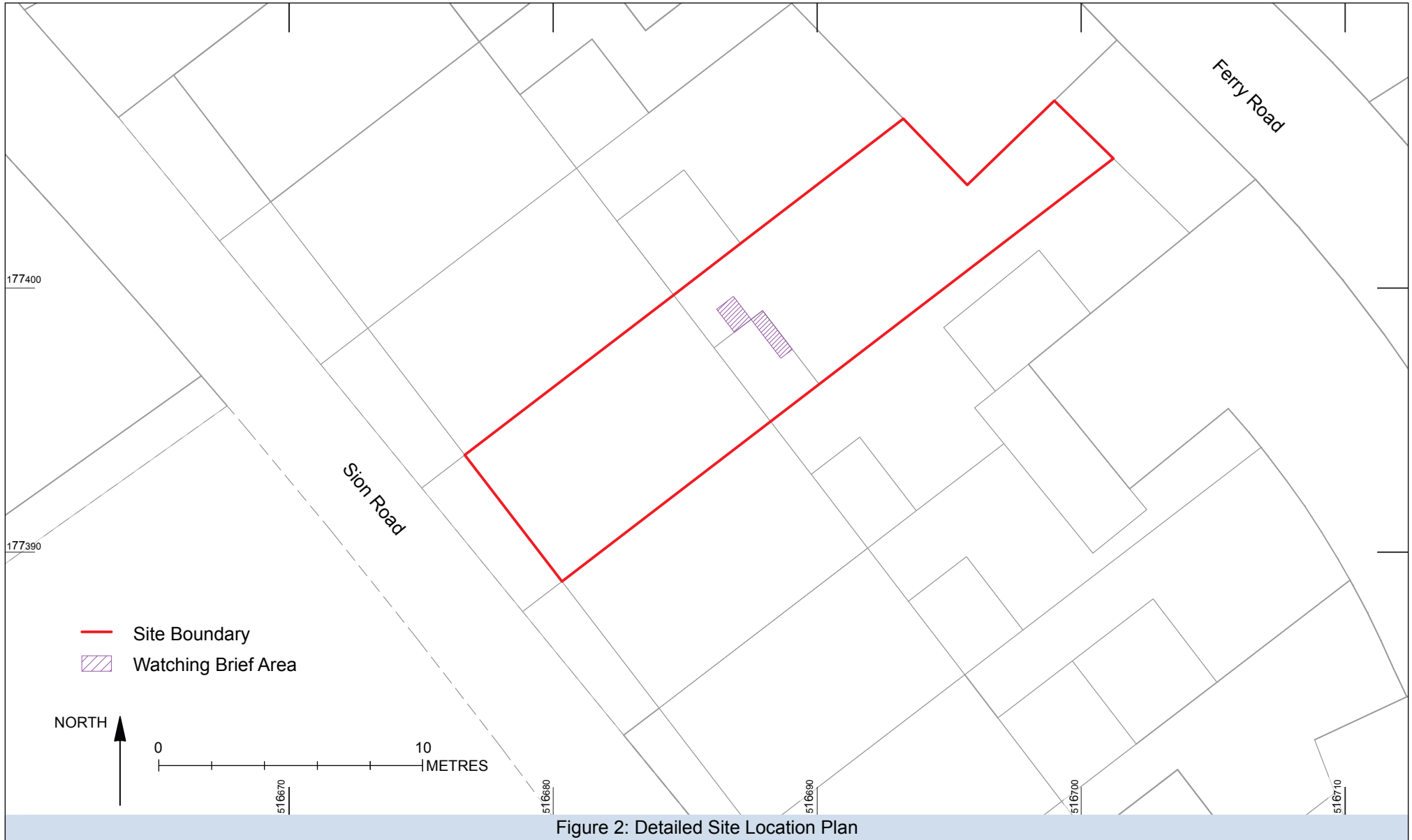


Figure 2: Detailed Site Location Plan

Appendices

Appendix A – General

Insurances

1. AOC holds Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details can be supplied on request.
2. AOC will not be liable to indemnify the client against any compensation or damages for or with respect to:
 - damage to crops being on the Area or Areas of Work (save in so far as possession has not been given to the Archaeological Contractor)
 - the use or occupation of land (which has been provided by the Client) by the Project or for the purposes of completing the Project (including consequent loss of crops) or interference whether temporary or permanent with any right of way light air or other easement or quasi easement which are the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement
 - any other damage which is the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement
 - injuries or damage to persons or property resulting from any act or neglect or breach of statutory duty done or committed by the client or his agents servants or their contractors (not being employed by AOC Archaeology or for or in respect of any claims demands proceedings damages costs charges and expenses in respect thereof or in relation thereto)
3. Where excavation has taken place evaluation trenches will be backfilled with excavated material but will otherwise not be reinstated unless other arrangements have previously been agreed. Open area excavations normally will not be backfilled but left in a secure manner unless otherwise agreed.

Copyright and Confidentiality

4. AOC Archaeology will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive license to the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
5. AOC will assign copyright to the client upon written request but retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.
6. AOC will advise the Client of any such materials supplied in the course of projects, which are not AOC's copyright.
7. AOC undertake to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Client's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. In addition AOC further undertakes to keep confidential any conclusions about the likely implications of such proposals for the historic environment. It is expected that Clients respect AOC's and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

Standards

8. AOC conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, the IFA Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, the IFA Standards and Guidance for Desk Based Assessments, Field Evaluations etc., and the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice.
9. Where practicable AOC will liaise with local archaeological bodies (both professional and amateur) in order that information about particular sites is disseminated both ways (subject to client confidentiality).

Appendix B – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-162877

Project details	
Project name	Watching Brief on 9, Sion, Road, Twickenham
Short description of the project	Monitoring of the hand digging of the footing for east - west return wall of a new exterior wall and the hand digging out of overburden from location of new steps up from basement current basement to current garden level.
Project dates	Start: 23-10-2013 End: 29-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	30226 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SIT08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Conservation Area Consent

Project location		
Country		England
Site location		GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES RICHMOND UPON THAMES 9 Sion Road
Postcode		W14 9XN
Study area		300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates		TQ 1665 7335 51 0 51 26 47 N 000 19 16 W Point
Height OD / Depth		Min: 12.00m Max: 12.00m
Project creators		
Name of Organisation		AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator		EH GLAAS
Project design originator		AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager		Tony Walsh
Project supervisor		David Fallon
Type of sponsor/funding body		Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body		Mr Robert Leigh
Project archives		
Physical Archive Exists?		No
Physical Archive recipient		LAARC

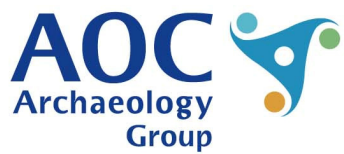
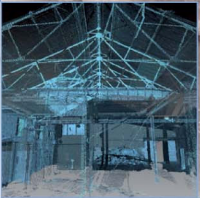
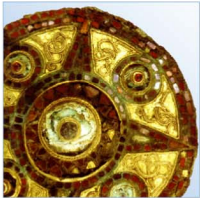
Physical Archive ID	SIT 08
Physical Archive notes	Held at AOC office untill transfer
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	SIT 08
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
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Paper Archive ID	SIT 08
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"
Paper Archive notes	Held at AOC office untill transfer
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	9, Sion Road, Twickenham. A Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fallon, D.
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or	London

publication

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