

1 ABSTRACT

On the 14th and 15th May 2007 an archaeological watching brief, on behalf of RPS, was undertaken in association with a programme of geo-technical investigations. The archaeological investigations involved the observation and recording of 9 machine excavated geo-technical test pits measuring 3m by 0.6m using a JCB 3CX.

The archaeological investigations were commissioned to assess whether former development on the site had disturbed any potential archaeological deposits. Of the nine test pits recorded, the natural ground was encountered in six and made ground was seen to the full depth of the other three. The results suggest that the area has suffered considerable truncation during the 20th century. Although the presence of natural ground means that it is possible that archaeological remains are present on the site, it is more likely that any such remains that were present have been removed during this episode of truncation. Of the deposits observed, none were deemed to possess any significant archaeological value.

2 INTRODUCTION

Site Location

- 2.1 The site is located directly to the north of the new Wembley Stadium, and to the south of Engineers Way, in the London Borough of Brent (Fig. 1 & 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 19307 85767.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The underlying geology on site is indicated as being London Clay, with patches of Thames Gravel known in the vicinity. Notable gravel deposits include Dollis Hill Gravel on Wembley Hill to the west of the site, and Lynch Hill Gravels c. 300m east of the stadium (BGS sheet 256).
- 3.2 No previous geo-technical works have been undertaken on W03.

Archaeological Background

Prehistoric

- 3.3 There are no known remains in the immediate vicinity of Wembley Stadium, although it is suspected that the Thames terrace gravels, which occur in the area, may potentially contain evidence of an early prehistoric nature.

Saxon / Medieval

- 3.4 Documentary evidence dating to 825AD indicates that the settlement at Wembley was first referred to as Wemba Lea. The location of this settlement is thought to be located near Wembley Green and Wembley Hill. The medieval village of Tokyngton is thought to have been located to the west of the current Wembley Stadium.

Post-Medieval

- 3.5 The modern London suburb of Wembley only began to substantially develop in the last quarter of the 19th century, motivated by the presence of the main London to Birmingham railway and local tram network. Wembley Stadium itself was constructed in 1922-3 as a multi-purpose sports and entertainment centre for the British Empire Exhibition of 1924-5. It remained a national landmark until its closure and redevelopment in 2000.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 3.6 Between February and March 2005 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC on preparatory works to the Wembley Stadium Piazza,

directly to the east of the Wembley WO4 site (AOC, 2005). During trenching works for service diversions, observations demonstrated that made ground sat directly above London Clay, indicating that significant horizontal truncation of the previous land surface had occurred. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the works (ibid).

4 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The general aims of the Watching Brief were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the development site.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To enable GLAAS to make an informed decision on the requirement for any further archaeological works on WO3.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
- 4.2 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The fieldwork was managed by Ron Humphrey for AOC Archaeology and supervised by the author.
- 5.2 A site code **WEV07** was obtained from the Museum of London as the unique site identity.
- 5.3 The scope of the watching brief involved the examination and recording of 9 test pits excavated during the programme of geo-technical site investigations, undertaken by Soil Mechanics. The test pits were excavated using a JCB 3CX with 500mm wide toothless bucket, and measured approximately 3m by 0.6m.
- 5.4 It was decided that the numbering of the test pits should be kept in line with the numbering system used by the geo-technical engineers. This was done to avoid confusion and for ease of reference between the archaeology and geo-technical data. For this purpose all test pits are prefixed TP.
- 5.5 All of the work was carried out in line with Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP) 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage 1998); and IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA 1994).

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 Nine geo-technical test pits were excavated in the area WO3 (Fig. 2). Each test pit was approximately 3m by 0.6m, while the depth of the test pits was limited to approximately 3m.

Test Pit TP302

- 6.2 Surface of Trench = 36.74m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
36.74-36.54m	0.00m	(TP302/001)	Made ground. Concrete slab.
36.54-35.74m	0.20m	(TP302/002)	Made ground. Pinkish, dry rubble with cloth, wire and wood inclusions.
35.74-34.69m	1.00-2.05m	(TP302/003)	Made ground. Blackish stained, pungent deposit.
34.69m (NFE)	2.05m	(TP302/004)	Made ground. Concrete slab.

- 6.3 The earliest recorded deposit was a concrete slab (TP302/004). At its highest it was observed at 34.69m AOD. This was overlain by two distinct layers of modern made ground (TP302/003) and (TP302/002) 1.85m thick. The sequence was sealed by a concrete slab (TP302/001) 0.20m thick.
- 6.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit TP302.

Test Pit TP302A

- 6.5 Surface of Trench = 36.80m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
36.80-34.35m	0.00m	(TP302A/001)	Made ground. Mixed composition containing frequent large fragments of modern building debris.
34.35-34.25m	2.45m	(TP302A/002)	Made ground. Concrete slab.
34.25-34.20m (NFE)	2.55-2.60m	(TP302A/003)	Natural (?). Compact, mid yellowish brown, clay.

- 6.6 The earliest recorded deposit was a compact, mid yellowish brown clay, interpreted as a possible natural deposit (TP302A/003). At its highest it was observed at 34.25m AOD. This was overlain by a 0.10m thick concrete slab (TP302A/002), which was overlain by 2.45m of modern made ground (TP302A/001).
- 6.7 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit TP302A.

Test Pit TP303

- 6.8 Surface of Trench = 37.39m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
37.39-37.19m	0.00m	(TP303/001)	Made ground. Loose compacted gravel.
37.19-36.89m	0.20m	(TP303/002)	Made ground. Very firm, mixed concrete fragments and rubble.
36.89-35.99m	0.50m	(TP303/003)	Made ground. Firm, mid brown, mixed clay, fragments rubble and wood.
35.99-35.09m	1.40m	(TP303/004)	Made ground. Mid yellow brown, clay, occasional fragments CBM and wood.
35.09-34.84m (NFE)	2.30-2.55m	(TP303/005)	Natural. Yellow brown, clay.

- 6.9 The earliest recorded deposit was a yellowish brown clay natural (TP303/005). At its highest it was observed at 35.09m AOD. This was overlain by four distinct layers of modern made ground (TP303/004) (TP303/003) (TP303/002) and (TP303/001) 2.30m thick.
- 6.10 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit TP303.

Test Pit TP304

- 6.11 Surface of Trench = 37.55m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
37.55-37.15m	0.00m	(TP304/001)	Made ground. Concrete slab.
37.15-	0.40m	(TP304/002)	Made ground. Mixed clay, fragments

36.55m			building debris.
36.55-36.35m	1.00m	(TP304/003)	Made ground. Mid yellow brown, clay, including greyish black silty clay lenses.
36.35-34.55m	1.20-3.00m	(TP304/004)	Made ground. Black pungent deposit.
34.55m (NFE)	3.00m	(TP304/005)	Made ground. Concrete base.

- 6.12 The earliest recorded deposit was a concrete base (TP304/005). At its highest it was observed at 34.55m AOD. This was overlain by three distinct layers of modern made ground (TP304/004) (TP304/003) (TP304/002) 2.60m thick. Sealing the sequence was a concrete slab (TP304/01) 0.40m thick.
- 6.13 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit TP304.

Test Pit TP305

- 6.14 Surface of Trench = 39.14m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
39.14-39.04m	0.00m	(TP305/001)	Made ground. Compact, stony deposit.
39.04-38.96m	0.10m	(TP305/002)	Made ground. Pinkish grey, stony deposit.
38.96-38.14m	0.18m	(TP305/003)	Made ground. Mixed rubble with concrete deposit.
38.14-37.99m	1.00m	(TP305/004)	Made ground. Greenish yellow brown, clay.
37.99-37.24m (NFE)	1.15-1.90m	(TP305/005)	Natural. Mid yellow brown, clay.

- 6.15 The earliest recorded deposit was a mid yellowish brown clay natural (TP305/005). At its highest it was observed at 37.99m AOD. This was overlain by four distinct layers of modern made ground (TP305/004) (TP305/003) (TP305/002) and (TP305/001) 1.15m thick.
- 6.16 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit TP305.

Test Pit TP306

6.17 Surface of Trench = 38.30m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
38.30-38.18m	0.00m	(TP306/001)	Made ground. Tarmac and aggregate make-up.
38.18-38.00m	0.12m	(TP306/002)	Made ground. Loose, yellow, sandy gravel.
38.00-37.93m	0.30m	(TP306/003)	Made ground. Concrete slab.
37.93-35.40m	0.37m	(TP306/004)	Made ground. Mixed clay, 20 th century wood and building debris.
35.40-35.22m (NFE)	2.90-3.08m	(TP306/005)	Made ground. Soft, black, organic deposit, occasional CBM fragments.

6.18 The earliest recorded deposit was a soft black made ground deposit (TP306/005). At its highest it was observed at 35.40m AOD. This was overlain by three distinct layers of modern made ground (TP306/004) (TP306/003) and (TP305/002) 2.80m thick. The sequence was sealed by a layer of tarmac (TP306/001) 0.10m thick.

6.19 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit TP306.

Test Pit TP307

6.20 Surface of Trench = 37.94m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
37.94-37.74m	0.00m	(TP307/001)	Made ground. Concrete slab.
37.74-37.51m	0.20m	(TP307/002)	Made ground. Tarmac, fragmented CBM make-up.
37.51-37.26m	0.43m	(TP307/003)	Made ground. Mixed clay deposit, occasional CBM fragments.
37.26-34.94m (NFE)	0.68-3.00m	(TP307/004)	Natural. Mid yellow brown clay.

6.21 The earliest recorded deposit was a mid yellowish brown clay natural (TP307/004). At its highest it was observed at 37.26m AOD. This was overlain by

two distinct layers of modern made ground (TP307/003) and (TP307/002) 0.50m thick. The sequence was sealed by a concrete slab (TP307/001) 0.20m thick.

- 6.22 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit TP307.

Test Pit TP308

- 6.23 Surface of Trench = 39.30m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
39.30-39.22m	0.00m	(TP308/001)	Made ground. Tarmac.
39.22-38.80m	0.08m	(TP308/002)	Made ground. Loose, pink builders ballast.
38.80-38.10m	0.50m	(TP308/003)	Made ground. Loose, black, sandy asphalt dump.
38.10-37.60m (NFE)	1.20-1.70m	(TP308/004)	Natural. Mid yellow brown clay.

- 6.24 The earliest recorded deposit was a mid yellowish brown clay natural (TP308/004). At its highest it was observed at 38.10m AOD. This was overlain by two distinct layers of modern made ground (TP308/003) and (TP308/002) 1.15m thick. The sequence was sealed by a layer of tarmac (TP308/001) 0.10m thick.

- 6.25 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit TP308.

Test Pit TP308A

- 6.26 Surface of Trench = 39.63m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
39.63-39.43m	0.00m	(TP308A/001)	Made ground. Compact gravel hardstanding.
39.43-39.28m	0.20m	(TP308A/002)	Made ground. Mid yellow brown, sandy clay gravel, occasional brick fragments.
39.28-37.63m (NFE)	0.35-2.00m	(TP308A/003)	Natural. Compact, yellowish brown, clay.

- 6.27 The earliest recorded deposit was a mid yellowish brown clay natural (TP308A/003). At its highest it was observed at 39.28m AOD. This was overlain by sandy clay gravel modern made ground deposit (TP308A/002) 0.15m thick. The sequence was sealed by a layer of compact gravel (TP308A/001) 0.20m thick.
- 6.28 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit TP308A.

7 FINDS

- 7.1 No finds were collected during the course of the watching brief.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 During the course of the works on site the nature and extent of the archaeological potential was observed, in addition to the associated disturbance of this potential.
- 8.2 Natural clay was identified in six of the geo-technical test pits, ranging in height from 34.25mOD to 39.28mOD. Above the natural ground was made ground, with no topsoil or subsoil or other indication that a past ground surface had survived untruncated. Made ground was present to the full depth of the other three.
- 8.3 All the made ground dated from the early 20th century or later, and it can be assumed to have originated in the construction of the original stadium at that date.
- 8.4 The results suggest that the area has suffered considerable truncation in modern times. Although the presence of natural ground means that it is possible that archaeological remains are present on the site, it is more likely that any such remains that were present have been removed during this episode of truncation.
- 8.5 Over the course of the archaeological investigations at the Wembley WO3 site no archaeologically significant remains or features were observed.

9 PUBLICATION

- 9.1 Due to the nature of the project, it is expected that publication will be limited to a summary in the London Archaeology Round-up, and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).

10 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 10.1 On completion of the project the archive, consisting written, drawn and digital records, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC).

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology (2005). *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Stadium Piazza, Wembley. London Borough of Brent.*

British Geological Survey. (1:50,000 series) *Sheet 256 - North London.*

English Heritage. (1998) *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork 3.*

Institute of Field Archaeologists. (1994) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs.*

Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Detailed Site Location/Trench Location

APPENDIX A - Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length/m	Width/m	Depth/m
TP302/001	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.20
TP302/002	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.80
TP302/003	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	1.05
TP302/004	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.10+
TP302A/001	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	2.45
TP302A /002	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.10
TP302A /003	Natural	3.00	0.60	0.05+
TP303/001	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.20
TP303/002	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.30
TP303/003	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.90
TP303/004	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.90
TP303/005	Natural	3.00	0.60	0.25+
TP304/001	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.40
TP304/002	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.60
TP304/003	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.20
TP304/004	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.80
TP304/005	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.10+
TP305/001	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.10
TP305/002	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.08
TP305/003	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.82
TP305/004	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.15
TP305/005	Natural	3.00	0.60	0.75+
TP306/001	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.12
TP306/002	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.18
TP306/003	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.07
TP306/004	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	1.53
TP306/005	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.18+
TP307/001	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.20
TP307/002	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.23
TP307/003	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.25

Context No.	Context Description	Length/m	Width/m	Depth/m
TP307/004	Natural	3.00	0.60	2.32+
TP308/001	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.08
TP308/002	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.42
TP308/003	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.70
TP308/004	Natural	3.00	0.60	0.50+
TP308A/001	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.20
TP308A/002	Made Ground	3.00	0.60	0.15
TP308A/003	Natural	3.00	0.60	1.65+

APPENDIX B - OASIS Form**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-28075****Project details**

Project name	Wembley WO3, Wembley
Short description of the project	On the 14th and 15th May 2007 an archaeological watching brief, on behalf of RPS, was undertaken in association with a programme of geo-technical investigations. The archaeological investigations involved the observation and recording of 9 machine excavated geo-technical test pits measuring 3m by 0.6m using a JCB 3CX. The archaeological investigations were commissioned to assess whether former development on the site had disturbed any potential archaeological deposits. Of the nine test pits recorded, the natural ground was encountered in six and made ground was seen to the full depth of the other three. The results suggest that the area has suffered considerable truncation during the 20th century. Although the presence of natural ground means that it is possible that archaeological remains are present on the site, it is more likely that any such remains that were present have been removed during this episode of truncation. Of the deposits observed, none were deemed to possess any significant archaeological value.
Project dates	Start: 14-05-2007 End: 15-05-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	7831 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WEV07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Prompt Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BRENT WEMBLEY Wembley WO3, Wembley
Postcode	HA9 0DA
Study area	0.70 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 19307 85767 51.5576646633 -0.278797236608 51 33 27 N 000 16 43 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	RPS (PTE)
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Tim Carew
Project supervisor	Fitz
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	RPS

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	WEV07
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
Digital Archive notes	To be held at AOC until ready to archive.
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	WEV07
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section'
Paper Archive notes	To be held at AOC until ready to archive.

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	WEMBLEY WO3, WEMBLEY, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT- AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carew, T, and Clarke, C.
Date	2007

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or
publication London

Description A4 text and illustrations

Entered by Chris Clarke (chrisclarke@aocarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 29 June 2007