

WEMBLEY W07
WEMBLEY, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

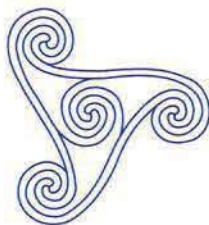
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

National Grid Reference: TQ 19014 85652

Site Code: EMW07

By: AOC ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Client: RPS



National Grid Reference: TQ 1901 8565

Site Code: EMW07

On behalf of: RPS Planning
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Timing: Fieldwork: October 2007
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**WEMBLEY W07, WEMBLEY, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

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1 ABSTRACT

On the 10th October 2007 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group in association with a programme of geo-technical investigations on behalf of RPS Planning. The archaeological investigations involved the observation and recording of three machine excavated geo-technical test pits (Test Pits 706, 707 and 709) on land to the west of the new Wembley Stadium, London Borough of Brent.

The archaeological investigations were commissioned to assess the potential for archaeological deposits to survive. All three test pits contained sequences comprising demolition rubble and made ground overlying London Clay. It is thought that horizontal truncation took place prior to the deposition of the made ground, removing any previously existing subsoil deposits. The horizontal truncation of deposits is thought to have occurred during the development of the site in the early 20th century. The disturbed nature of all the deposits indicates that the potential for archaeological horizons to survive in these areas is very poor.

No significant archaeological remains or finds were identified during the watching brief.

2 INTRODUCTION

Site Location

- 2.1 The site (W07) is located to the west of the new Wembley Stadium, fronting Wembley Park Boulevard, in the London Borough of Brent (Figures 1 and 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1901 8565.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric (before c.AD 43)

- 3.1 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

- 3.2 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

- 3.3 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 a 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

- 3.4 Previous phases of archaeological monitoring (AOC Archaeology Group 2007a, 2007b & 2007c) have taken place within the vicinity of the site (W03, W04 and W05). No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the works.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The underlying geology on site is indicted 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. The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 256).

5 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 5.1 The 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 status of any future planning application and any possible conditions for further work required if the application is approved; and
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the requirement (or otherwise) for a mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
- 5.2 The final aims of the investigation were: to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 A site code **EMW07** was obtained from the Museum of London as the unique site identity.
- 6.2 The watching brief work was undertaken by Les Capon, Project Officer, under the overall project management of Ron Humphrey, Project Manager.
- 6.3 The scope of the watching brief involved the examination and recording of three geo-technical test pits in Area WO7 (Figures 2 and 3), during the programme of geo-technical site investigations by Soil Mechanics. The test pits were excavated using a JCB 3CX, fitted with 500mm wide toothless bucket.
- 6.4 Test Pit 706 measured 3.92m x 0.7m, Test Pit 707 measured 4.1m x 0.7m and Test Pit 709 measured 3.5m x 0.7m.
- 6.5 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).

7 RESULTS

- 7.1 The sequence of deposition on site tended to consist of natural clay overlaid by made ground and demolition rubble.

Test Pit 706

- 7.2 The level of the surface of Trench 706 is not known.

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
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0m-0.46m	(706/001)	Demolition rubble. Light brown silty sand, concrete, gravel, brick, plastic and glass.
0.46m-1.30m	(706/002)	Made ground. Concrete, brick, plastic in brown silty coarse sand.
1.30m-1.60m	(706/003)	Clay. Dark brown/almost black clay.
1.60m-2.00m	(706/004)	Concrete.
2.00m-2.40m	(706/005)	Gravel deposit. Pea shingle and sand.
2.40m-2.90m+	(706/006)	Natural clay deposit. Stiff brown clay with occasional blue staining.

7.3 The earliest deposit identified in Test Pit 706 was a brown clay with blue oxidized staining measuring 0.5m+ which is interpreted as London Clay (706/006). It was overlain by a sequence of deposits thought to be modern (706/005, 706/004, 706/003, 706/002). The uppermost deposit was a 0.46m thick layer of demolition rubble in a silty sand matrix (706/001).

7.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 706.

Trench 707

7.5 The level of the surface of Trench 707 is not known

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
0m-0.82m	(707/001)	Demolition rubble. Uncompacted pale brown silty sand with c.90% building material dominated by concrete re-bars and plastic.
0.82m-1.43m	(707/002)	Made ground. Firm to loose brown silty sand with c.60% building material largely concrete. Some gravel which may derive from 'crush'.
1.30m-1.60m	(707/003)	Natural clay deposit. Stiff brown clay. There are a couple of pockets of sand and very occasional bluish areas.

7.6 The earliest deposit identified in Test Pit 707 was a 1.8m+ thick layer of brown clay with blue oxidized staining which is interpreted as London Clay (707/0064). It was overlain by a 0.61m layer of made ground (707/002) and a 0.82m layer of demolition rubble in a silty sand matrix (707/001).

7.7 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 707.

Trench 709

7.8 The level of the surface of Trench 709 is not known

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
0m-0.71m	(709/001)	Demolition rubble. Uncompacted light brown silty sand with high concrete/building material content.
0.71m-1.42m	(709/002)	Made ground. Firm to loose brown silty sand with c.60% building material largely concrete. Some gravel which may derive from crushed building material.

1.42m-2.15m	(709/003)	Natural clay deposit. Stiff brown clay. No inclusions.
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- 7.9 The earliest deposit identified in Test Pit 709 was a 2.15m+ thick layer of brown clay interpreted as London Clay (709/003). It was overlain by a 0.71m layer of made ground (709/002) and a 0.71m layer of demolition rubble in a silty sand matrix (709/001).
- 7.10 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Test Pit 709.

8 FINDS

- 8.1 No finds were collected during the course of the Watching Brief.

9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The watching brief did not identify any archaeological remains. However, it has been demonstrated that the deposit horizons are very disturbed, and the potential for archaeological remains to survive is low.
- 9.2 Natural London Clay was identified in all geo-technical test pits, ranging in depth from the surface from 1.30m to 2.40m.
- 9.3 The sequence of deposits was similar in two of the test pits (Test Pits 707 & 709), comprising demolition rubble over made ground sealing the London Clay. Test Pit 706 however had more, deeper modern deposits suggesting that this pit was in the area of a previous basement.
- 9.4 It appears that the early 20th century phase of horizontal truncation removed any possible archaeological deposits, impacting the entirety of the area of site inspected.

10 PUBLICATION

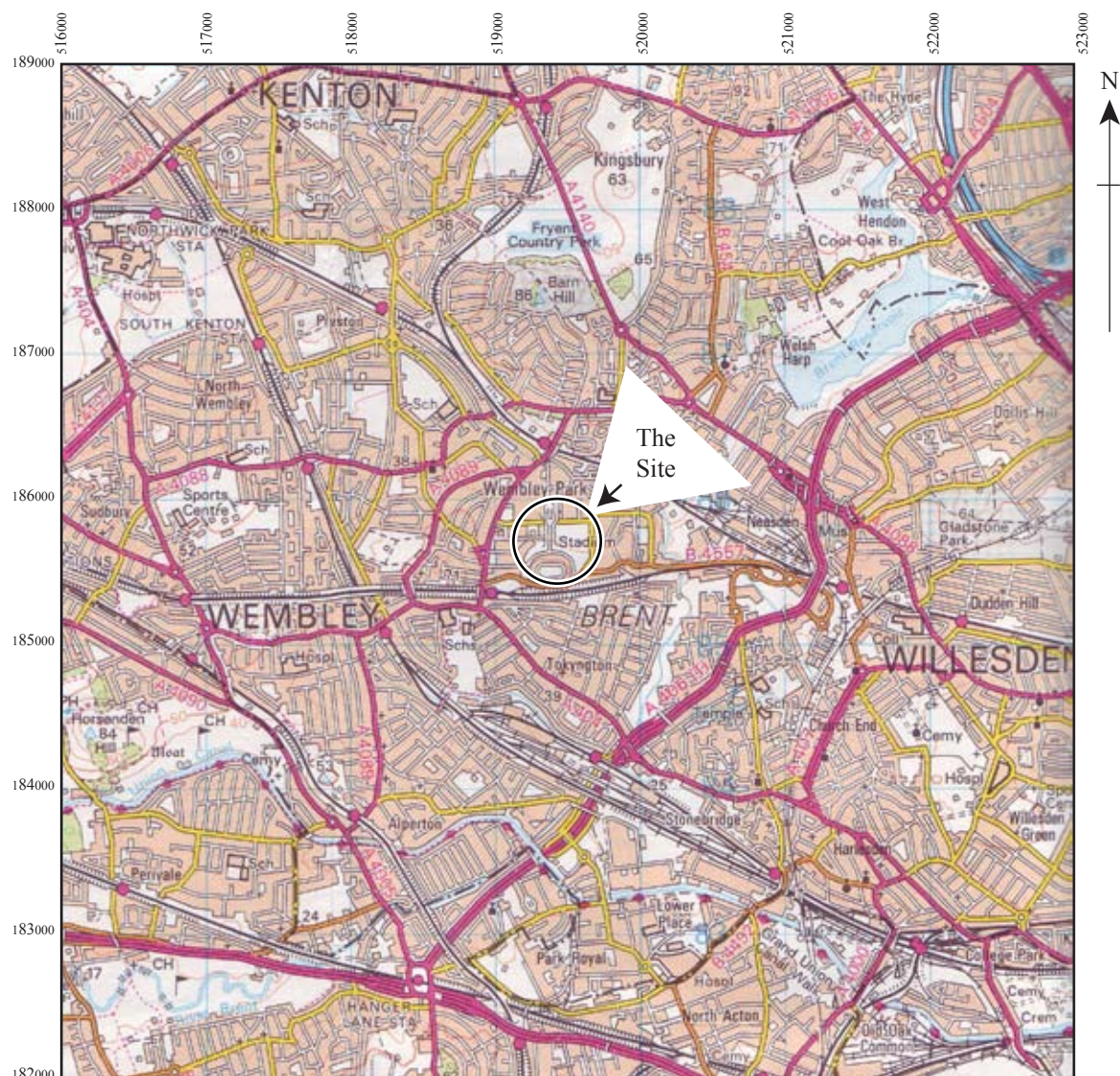
- 10.1 Due to the nature of the results, it is suggested that publication be limited to a summary in the London Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).

11 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 11.1 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, and digital photographs, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) at the Museum of London.

12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

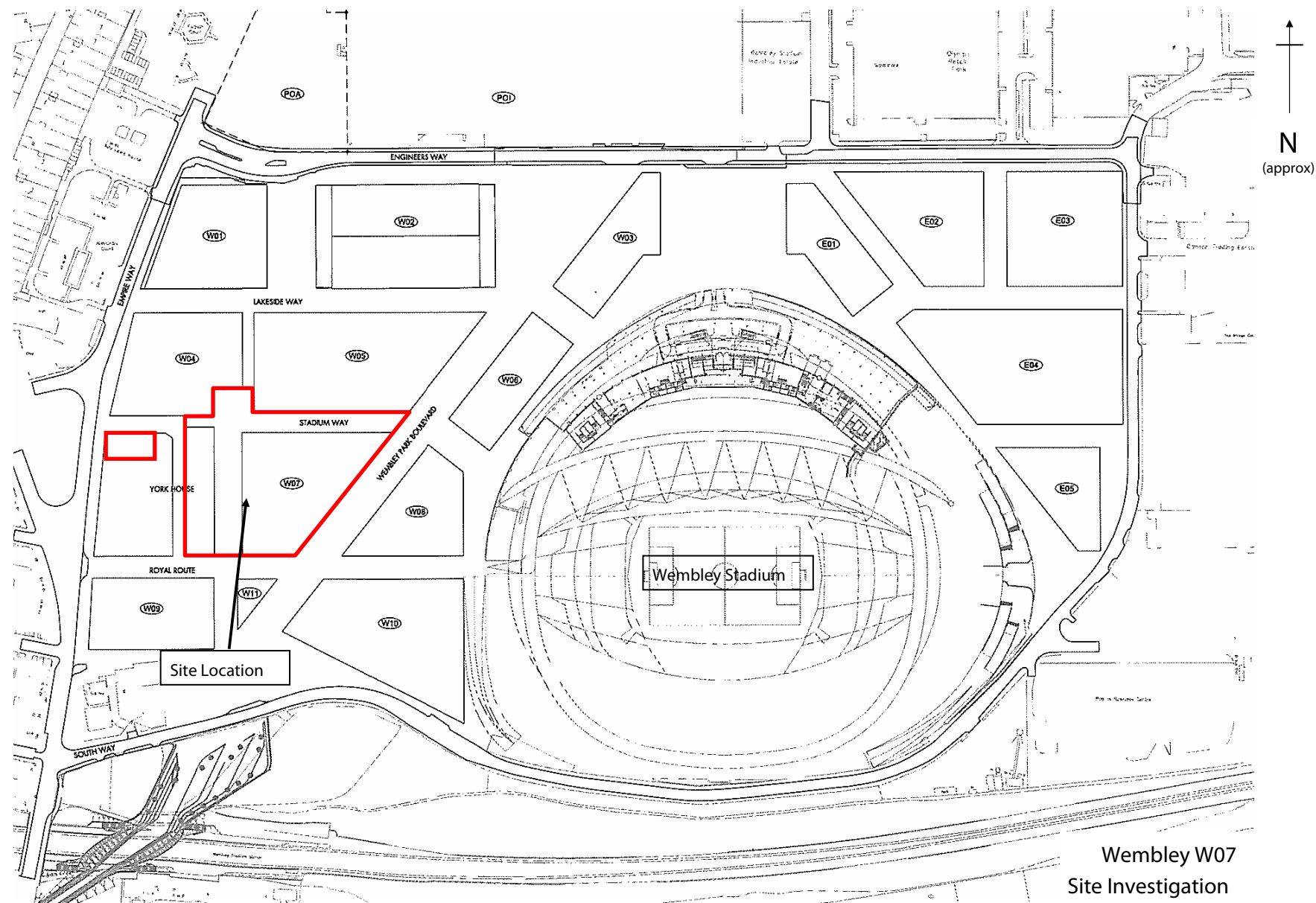
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Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2000
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500m 0 2 km
1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location



Not To Scale

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

Figure 3: Investigations Locations Plan

 Observed Test Pits

APPENDIX A - Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length/m	Width/m	Depth/m
706/001	Modern demolition	3.92m+	0.7m+	0.46m
706/002	Made ground	3.80m+	0.7m+	0.84m
706/003	Clay	3.80m+	0.7m+	0.3m
706/004	Concrete	3.80m+	0.7m+	0.4m
706/005	Gravel deposit	3.80m+	0.7m+	0.5m
706/006	Natural London Clay	3.80m+	0.7m+	0.5m+
707/001	Modern demolition	4.1m+	0.7m+	0.82m
707/002	Made ground	4.1m+	0.7m+	0.61m
707/003	Clay	4.1m+	0.7m+	1.8m+
709/001	Modern demolition	3.5m+	0.7m+	0.71m
709/002	Made ground	3.5m+	0.7m+	0.71m
709/003	Clay	3.5m+	0.7m+	2.15m+

APPENDIX B - OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-35155

Project details

Project name	W07 -York House,Wembley
Short description of the project	watching brief on three geotechnical test pits revealing modern made ground deposits onto natural London clay
Project dates	Start: 10-10-2007 End: 10-10-2007
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EMW 07 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	7831 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	SMR enhancement

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BRENT WEMBLEY Land at York House,Empire Way
Postcode	HA9
Site coordinates	TQ 1901 8562 51.5564062292 -0.283129649858 51 33 23 N 000 16 59 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology Group

Project brief originator RPS (PTE)

Project design originator RPS (PTE)

Project director/manager Ron Humphrey

Project supervisor Les Capon

Type of sponsor/funding body RPS

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London

Digital Archive ID EMW 07

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

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

Digital Archive notes MoL metadata files including report text and graphics

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Archive ID EMW 07

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Microfilm','Section','Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive notes Primary records=3 test pit record sheets and two section sheets

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Wembley W07, Wembley, London Borough of Brent: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Melikian, M./Capon,L.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology Group
Place of issue or publication	AOC London
Description	A4 results text and site/test pit location figures

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Entered on	3 December 2007

The AOC Archaeology Group provides a wide range of archaeological services, including consultancy, desktop studies, historic building recording, survey, excavation, post-excavation analyses, conservation and publication.

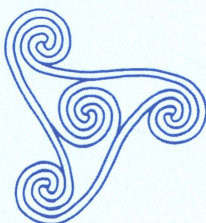
Our management team blends archaeological excellence with financial expertise and many of our highly trained personnel and recognised leaders in their own fields. Consequently, we possess an approach which is both commercially aware and of the very highest professional standard. We aim to provide an efficient and effective service to clients in both the private and public sectors.

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*The logo incorporates a design from
a lead disc found on Birsay, Orkney,
dated to the sixth century AD.*