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# Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AF

Post-Excavation Assessment  
and  
Updated Project Design



Planning Ref: PP/09/00875  
Museum of London Site Code: HDK09  
Ref: 71394.01  
December 2013



**Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens  
Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AF**

**Post-Excavation Assessment  
and Updated Project Design**

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## Contents

Summary.....	vi
Acknowledgements.....	vii
<b>1 PROJECT BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Introduction .....	1
1.2 Scope of the Document.....	1
1.3 Location, Topography and Geology .....	1
1.4 Project History .....	2
<i>Geotechnical investigations</i> .....	2
<i>Archaeological evaluation</i> .....	2
<i>Archaeological excavation</i> .....	2
1.5 Historical Background .....	3
<b>2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Aims of the archaeological work .....	5
2.2 Methodology of the Archaeological Works.....	5
2.3 Excavation Areas .....	6
<i>Phase 1</i> .....	6
<i>Phase 2</i> .....	6
<i>Phase 3</i> .....	6
2.4 Fieldwork Methodology .....	6
2.5 Recording.....	7
2.6 Specialist strategies .....	7
<i>Artefact recovery</i> .....	7
<i>Finds and Environmental strategies</i> .....	7
<b>3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 Introduction .....	7
3.2 Summary of the Excavation Results .....	8
<i>Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British (100 BC – AD 150)</i> .....	8
<i>Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)</i> .....	9
<i>Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)</i> .....	9
<i>Post-medieval and modern (AD 1500 – present)</i> .....	9
<i>Features of uncertain date</i> .....	10
<b>4 FINDS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	10
4.2 Pottery.....	10
<i>Early Prehistoric</i> .....	11
<i>Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British</i> .....	11
<i>Romano-British</i> .....	12
<i>Early/Middle Saxon</i> .....	12
<i>Post-Medieval</i> .....	12
4.3 Ceramic Building Material .....	12
4.4 Clay tobacco pipe.....	13



4.5	Worked and Burnt flint.....	13
4.6	Stone.....	13
4.7	Glass.....	13
4.8	Metalwork.....	13
4.9	Other Finds .....	13
<b>5</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1	Introduction .....	13
5.2	Charred plant remains.....	14
	<i><b>Phase 1</b></i> .....	14
	<i><b>Phase 2</b></i> .....	15
	<i><b>Phase 3 Area 1</b></i> .....	15
5.3	Wood charcoal .....	15
<b>6</b>	<b>PROJECT RESEARCH THEMES AND FURTHER POTENTIAL.....</b>	<b>15</b>
6.1	Project Research Themes.....	15
	<i><b>Introduction</b></i> .....	15
	<i><b>Original Research Themes</b></i> .....	15
6.2	Statements of potential .....	16
	<i><b>Overview of stratigraphic sequence</b></i> .....	16
	<i>Iron Age</i> .....	16
	<i>Romano-British</i> .....	17
	<i>Post-medieval/modern</i> .....	17
	<i><b>Finds potential</b></i> .....	17
	<i><b>Environmental potential</b></i> .....	18
	<i>Charred plant remains</i> .....	18
	<i>Wood charcoal</i> .....	18
<b>7</b>	<b>AIMS AND METHODS .....</b>	<b>18</b>
7.1	Introduction .....	18
	<i><b>Stratigraphic (task 3)</b></i> .....	18
	<i><b>Artefacts (tasks 6-7)</b></i> .....	18
	<i><b>Environmental (tasks 8)</b></i> .....	18
	<i>Charred plant remains</i> .....	18
	<i>Wood charcoal</i> .....	19
<b>8</b>	<b>RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION .....</b>	<b>19</b>
8.1	Introduction .....	19
8.2	Management structure .....	19
8.3	Performance monitoring and quality standards.....	20
8.4	Personnel.....	20
<b>9</b>	<b>STORAGE AND CURATION.....</b>	<b>21</b>
9.1	Museum .....	21
9.2	Archive .....	21
9.3	Conservation.....	21
9.4	Selection and Retention .....	21
9.5	Security Copy.....	21



<b>10</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1:</b>	<b>ALL FINDS BY CONTEXT (NUMBER/WEIGHT IN GRAMMES)</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2:</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS AND CHARCOAL</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3:</b>	<b>OASIS FORM</b> .....	<b>29</b>

### Tables

Table 1:	Previous fieldwork events: Holland Park School (HPK09) .....	3
Table 2:	Pottery totals by ware type .....	11
Table 3:	Sample provenance summary.....	14
Table 4:	Task list .....	20

### Figures

Figure 1:	Site location
Figure 2:	Phases 1, 2 and 3 excavation areas with phasing
Figure 3:	Sections 1 to 4
Figure 4:	Plates 1 to 6

### Plates

Front cover:	Working shot - Excavation of Phase 2, from south
Plate 1:	North facing section of ditch 1159, Phase 2
Plate 2:	South facing section of pit 1018, Phase 1
Plate 3:	North-east facing section of hearth pit 1015, Phase 1
Plate 4:	South facing section of ditch 1160, Phase 2
Plate 5:	West facing section of pit 1095, Phase 2
Plate 6:	East facing section of Phase 3, Area 3
Back cover:	General shot – Phase 1, from south-west



## **Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens, Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AF**

### **Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Turner and Townsend, on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, to undertake a phased programme of archaeological excavation at the Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens, Campden Hill, London W8 7AF, centred on National Grid Reference 524965 179915. The archaeological works were in support of a planning application to redevelop the site, which would involve the demolition of the existing 1950s-built school and the construction of a new school and sports area (Planning Reference: PP/09/00875).

The fieldwork comprised a trial trench evaluation in August 2009 followed by three staged phases of excavation from March 2010 to June 2013.

The fieldwork has revealed evidence for human activity dating from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval/modern period. This assessment report presents the results from all phases of excavation.

The excavation identified a small number of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British features. Evidence included several possible boundary or enclosure ditches, whilst two parallel ditches may have formed a driveway or trackway, perhaps part of a wider sub-divided, agricultural landscape. Although no direct settlement evidence was recorded, a few pits and postholes may indicate occupation nearby.

The Romano-British period was poorly represented, although two ditches are of this date. Substantial in size, the two features possibly formed the south-east entrance to an enclosure or field system to the north-west of the site.

A number of post-medieval features were also recorded across the site, and relate to the landscape that covered the Holland Park area until the 19th century. Much of the land was the former grounds of the Jacobean mansion called Cope Castle, renamed Holland House which remained gardens until the later decades of the 19th century. Several features probably represent garden features, and include pits dug for shrubs or small trees, horticultural planting beds, and a possible pond.

It is proposed that a limited programme of further stratigraphic, finds and environmental analyses be undertaken. This will lead to the production of an article for publication in *The London Archaeologist*.



# Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens, Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AF

## Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

### Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Turner and Townsend on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, to undertake the programme of archaeological investigations, and wish to thank Lauren Mountford and Paul Wallaker for their help during the course of the fieldwork. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful to Rob Whytehead, Diane Abrams, Gillian Hill and John Brown of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), who monitored the work during the course of the project. Thanks are also extended to Shepherds, the principal contractors on site, for their assistance throughout the course of the work.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa. The evaluation was undertaken by Vaughan Birbeck, assisted by Ben Cullen. The Phase 1 excavation was directed by Jon Milward, assisted by Matt Edmonds and Steve Price; Phase 2 was directed by Chloe Hunnisett and Gareth Chaffey, assisted by Mark Stewart and Mark Bagwell; and Phase 3 was undertaken by Joe Brooks, Clare Jackson, Chris Harrison and Chris Hirst.

The post-excavation assessment was managed by Damian De Rosa. This report was written by Gareth Chaffey, and the illustrations are by SE James. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram. The environmental evidence was assessed by Sarah F. Wyles and Chris J. Stevens, and the samples were processed by Nicki Mulhall, Amy Radford and Tony Scothern.





# Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens, Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AF

## Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

### 1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

#### 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Turner and Townsend, on behalf of The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (the Client), to undertake a programme of archaeological works at the Holland Park School (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 524965 179915 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological work was in support of Planning Application PP/09/00875 to redevelop the Site, which will involve the demolition of the existing 1950s-built school and the building of a new school and sports area in the same location (northern part of the Site). The southern part of the Site is to be developed separately for residential purposes.
- 1.1.3 The staged programme of excavation, carried out in three phases, was the final part of a programme of archaeological works, including evaluation and the monitoring of geotechnical investigation (Buro Happold 2006). The excavation was undertaken in order to mitigate against the impact of the new development on the identified area of high archaeological potential (**Figure 1**).

#### 1.2 Scope of the Document

- 1.2.1 This document presents a full post-excavation assessment of all phases of archaeological works undertaken on the Site since 2009, superseding the initial interim statements (Wessex Archaeology 2010b; 2010c). The report also provides a summary of the results of the excavation, to assess their potential to address the research aims specified in the WSI, and to recommend a costed programme of further work needed to achieve those aims, including analysis, public dissemination through publication and the curation of the archive.

#### 1.3 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.3.1 The Site is located in Kensington, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 524965 179915. The Site lies adjacent to Holland Park and the surrounding area is mainly covered by residential housing and apartment blocks. The Site is bounded to the west by Holland Park, to the north by a tennis club, by Campden Hill Road and residential buildings to the east and Campden Hill to the south (**Figure 1**).
- 1.3.2 The Site occupies an area of c. 4.37ha. The Site is in active use as a school comprising buildings, hard standing playground areas and a wooded garden area on its eastern side.
- 1.3.3 The Site lies at a height of approximately 35m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north and 30m aOD in the south. The original slope within the Site has been reprofiled into two or three terraced platforms separated by small retaining walls up to 1.5m high.



- 1.3.4 The underlying geology within the Site is recorded as Thames river terrace gravel deposits overlying London Clay (British Geological Survey, Sheet 270, 1998).

## 1.4 Project History

### *Geotechnical investigations*

- 1.4.1 An initial phase of geotechnical investigation was undertaken on the Site in 2006 (Buro Happold 2006). Further geotechnical investigations were undertaken in May 2009 by Buro Happold and monitored by Wessex Archaeology.

### *Archaeological evaluation*

- 1.4.2 Prior to the commencement of mitigation works, an archaeological evaluation of the Site comprising eight trenches (**Figure 1**) was undertaken in August 2009 (Wessex Archaeology 2009). The evaluation highlighted an area of high archaeological potential towards the southern extents of the Site containing remains of Iron Age, Romano-British and possibly Saxon date. The evaluation appeared to confirm the evidence of extensive activity dating to these periods that had previously been revealed during archaeological work carried out at The Philimores and St John Atkins Building to the south-west of the Site (PCA 2002; 2003).

### *Archaeological excavation*

- 1.4.3 Following evaluation, it was proposed that further archaeological investigation should be undertaken in three separate phases. This staged excavation approach was determined by the proposed development and when areas became available for investigation. Phase 1 was located within the footprint of a proposed temporary reception block; Phase 2 followed the demolition of the eastern wing of the existing school; and Phase 3 followed the demolition of the western wing, after the removal of the temporary reception block.
- 1.4.4 The project background, aims and objectives, historical and archaeological background, and the methodology by which Wessex Archaeology undertook the phased programme of archaeological excavations is set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2010a). Details of the fieldwork and documentation undertaken by Wessex Archaeology at the Site are set out in **Table 1**.



**Table 1: Previous fieldwork events: Holland Park School (HPK09)**

Work	Date	Organisation	Report Reference
WSI for an Archaeological Watching Brief of Geotechnical Trial Pits	May 2009	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 WA 71390.01
WSI for an Archaeological Field Evaluation (including results of Geotechnical Trial Pits)	August 2009	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 WA 71391.01
Archaeological Evaluation	August 2010	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 WA 71391.01
Archaeological Evaluation Report	Sept2009	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 WA 71391.03
WSI for an Archaeological Excavation	March 2010	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 71393.01
Archaeological Excavation – Phase 1	March 2010	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 WA 71393.03
Phase 1 Archaeological Interim Statement	March 2010	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 WA 71393.03
Archaeological Excavation – Phase 2	October 2010	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 WA 71393.04
Phase 2 Archaeological Interim Statement	December 2010	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 WA 71393.04
Archaeological Excavation – Phase 3 Areas 1-2	April 2013	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 WA 71394.01
Archaeological Excavation – Phase 3 Area 3	June 2013	Wessex Archaeology	MoL Site Code: HDK09 WA 71394.01

## 1.5 Historical Background

- 1.5.1 The earliest evidence of human activity recorded by the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) within a 500m radius Study Area of the Site comprises the findspot of a Palaeolithic (500,000-10,000 BC) flint knife and waste flake approximately 400m to the south-west of the Site. Although the GLSMR does not detail the circumstances of the finds, they were presumably recovered from the underlying Thames Terrace deposits.
- 1.5.2 Approximately 280m to the south-east of the Site the GLSMR records an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation at The Philimores (PCA 2003). This located the remains of a possible Bronze Age (2,400-700 BC) burnt mound along with a series of postholes, probably representing a structure, and associated pits which were assumed to be of broadly contemporary date. This is a little earlier than a concentration of prehistoric and later activity recorded in an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation at the Sir John Atkins Building (PCA 2002), some 180m to the south-east of the Site. The evaluation at the Sir John Atkins Building produced a small pottery assemblage which was provisionally dated to the Late Bronze Age (1,100-700 BC) and was, therefore, thought to be contemporary with the activity at the nearby Philimores site. The larger pottery sample provided by the excavation at the Sir John Atkins Building suggested a more likely Early



Iron Age (700-400 BC) date for the earliest phase of activity, although some struck flints may have represented residual material from earlier periods. A large sub-rectangular feature yielded pottery sherds belonging to the post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition and dated to around the 7th century BC. Associated with this were a series of postholes and sub-circular pits. Pottery recovered from these features dates to the Early Iron Age.

- 1.5.3 The Late Iron Age (100 BC-AD 43) period was also represented at the Sir John Atkins Building by pits, stakeholes and gullies, in addition to a north-south aligned ditch that would have been a fairly significant feature in the local landscape. This is likely to have delineated a boundary and/or been associated with drainage.
- 1.5.4 Two ditches and a pit dated to the Romano-British (AD 43-410) period were recorded at the Sir John Atkins Building. One ditch appears to have been a later re-cut of the Late Iron Age boundary ditch and it seems probable that the site was continuously occupied throughout the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. A probable plough soil, from which unabraded Saxon (AD 410-1066) pottery and earlier material was recovered, sealed these features. The post-medieval period was represented by a probable boundary ditch, a small pit and a large gravel quarry.
- 1.5.5 To the north of the Site, the line of Holland Park Avenue and Notting Hill Gate as far as Bayswater Road follows the alignment of the Roman road from Silchester to Colchester. It is also possible that this route was an Iron Age trackway prior to its adaptation as a Roman road. To the south of the Site, the Roman Akeman Street runs under the line of Kensington High Street to join up with the Silchester to Colchester road. A Roman cemetery was found at Notting Hill in 1841, in Victoria Park to the north-east of Site. Remains included stone and wooden coffins, together with bone and/or ivory pins.
- 1.5.6 The GLSMR records documentary and earthwork evidence for the presence of a medieval (AD 1066-1499) manor house and a moat approximately 450m to the south-west of the Site. A small excavation undertaken on a post-medieval stable block, part of the present Holland House, for a Greater London Council historic buildings survey, found traces of a 15<sup>th</sup> century brick floor along with pottery of a similar date. It is possible that this represents part of the earlier manor house.
- 1.5.7 The Holland Park area was rural agricultural land until the 19th century. Most of it was formerly the grounds of a Jacobean mansion called Cope Castle, built for Sir William Cope in the 17th century, parts of the gardens of which survive. It was renamed Holland House after passing to Lady Rich, whose husband was the Earl of Holland. In the later decades of the 19th century parts of the grounds were sold off for residential development, and the district which evolved took its name from the house. Further residential development included areas outside of the former grounds of the house, notably the Philimore Estate and the Campden Hill Square area. The GLSMR also contains one record of a small area of undated archaeological strata that survived between 19th century cellars and was recorded during an archaeological watching brief approximately 420m to the west of the Site.
- 1.5.8 Holland Park School was built in 1958 as London's first ever purpose-built comprehensive school.



## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims of the archaeological work

2.1.1 The aims of the excavation as set out in WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2010a) were to:

- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be threatened by development;
- identify, within the constraints of the excavation area, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site;
- assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;
- establish whether archaeological features and or deposits are present within what has been defined as made ground.

2.1.2 Specific aims of the excavation were to:

- clarify and further confirm the results of the evaluation;
- clarify and set the results of the excavation in relation to previous archaeological work undertaken in the area with particular reference to that carried out at Sir John Atkins Buildings and The Philimores, which revealed evidence of Late Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon activity;
- help define the extent of the Late Iron Age to Saxon activity in the area and can continuity between these periods be established?
- Identify whether Bronze Age activity identified at the Philimores and Sir John Atkins sites, which were absent in the evaluation trenches, can be identified in the larger excavation area;
- Identify evidence for other periods not previously identified in the evaluation at Holland Park School.

2.1.3 Specific research aims of the excavation with reference to the Greater London Archaeology Research Framework (MoLAS2000/2002) were to:

- Understanding whether the transition from the late pre-Roman Iron Age to Roman Britain and from Roman Britain to Saxon was wholly about change or whether there is more evidence than previously thought for continuity;
- Studying the impact of settlement and/or agriculture on the environment;
- Identifying rural land use and the extent of agricultural exploitation;
- Refining and dating the local ceramic sequence;
- Refining existing chronologies for settlement within the hinterland of Roman and Saxon London.

### 2.2 Methodology of the Archaeological Works

2.2.1 The methodology for all mitigation works on the defined phases of archaeological potential was set out in detail within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2010a).

2.2.2 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were conducted in compliance with the WSI in accordance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Revised 2008) and GLAAS *Standards for Archaeological Work* (GLAAS 2009 (Draft)). The assessment work follows guidance by English Heritage (MAP2 1991; MoRPHE 2006).



2.2.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

## 2.3 Excavation Areas

### *Phase 1*

2.3.1 In March 2010, a programme of Strip, Map and Record was begun within the footprint of a proposed temporary reception block (**Figures 1 and 2**). Located on the western edge of the development area, an irregularly shaped area 0.20ha in size was stripped. A modern concrete pond and an area of modern disturbance, most probably associated with the construction of the school in the 1950s, were present in the south-western part of the excavation area. The pond was dug well into the natural gravel and was not removed during the excavation.

2.3.2 A total of 14 archaeological features were revealed including possible Iron Age ditches, pits and postholes. A large post-medieval ditch was also recorded.

### *Phase 2*

2.3.3 In October 2010, a 0.30ha area was stripped on the eastern side of the Site, c. 30m to the east of the Phase 1 excavations, following the demolition of the eastern wing of the 1950s school (**Figures 1 and 2**). The Site was heavily disturbed by modern services, including a brick-lined culvert running south-west to north-east across the Site.

2.3.4 A moderate number of archaeological features were recorded, including several pits and ditches of Iron Age, Romano-British and post-medieval date.

### *Phase 3*

2.3.5 Phase 3 followed the demolition of the western wing of the school. The excavation of the phase was split into three separate areas, with Area 1 (0.31ha), and Area 2 (0.63ha), being excavated in April 2013 (**Figures 1 and 2**). A large amount of disturbance associated with the construction of the 1950s school had apparently truncated much of the area, although a limited number of archaeological features were recorded including a single Romano-British ditch in Area 1.

2.3.6 Phase 3 Area 3 was excavated in June 2013, covering an area of 0.12ha. Located between Phase 3 Area 1 and Area 2, it had suggested a high level of modern truncation. All of the features are thought to represent post-medieval/modern garden features.

## 2.4 Fieldwork Methodology

2.4.1 All overburden (i.e. overlying tarmacadam surfaces, modern made ground and garden soil) was removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Modern overburden was removed to the top of the natural Thames river terrace gravel deposits, within which archaeological features were revealed at a height of 32.40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2.4.2 The Site was further cleaned by hand, as appropriate, to enable an accurate Site plan to be produced. Investigation of the archaeological features and deposits was undertaken as specified in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2010a), sufficient to satisfy the principal aims of the excavation.



2.4.3 Archaeological remains were hand-excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the aims and the objectives of the excavation. A sufficient sample of archaeological remains was investigated through sample excavation to record the horizontal and vertical extents of the stratigraphic sequence to the level of undisturbed natural deposits.

## **2.5 Recording**

2.5.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.

2.5.2 A full written, drawn and photographic archive was maintained. Plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, where appropriate. The extent of the excavation areas, together with all archaeological features were accurately recorded using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.

2.5.3 Colour transparency, monochrome negative photographs (35mm), and digital images were taken (including a scale), as appropriate. A number of general site photographs and working shots were also taken to give an overview of the site and the progress of the excavation. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the site as a whole.

## **2.6 Specialist strategies**

### ***Artefact recovery***

2.6.1 All artefacts were collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (IFA 2001, SMA 1993 and 1995). Bulk finds were collected and recorded by context.

### ***Finds and Environmental strategies***

2.6.2 Appropriate strategies for the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples were devised by Wessex Archaeology's Finds and Environmental staff.

2.6.3 Bulk environmental samples (up to 40 litres), were taken from well-sealed and dated features, following Wessex Archaeology's standard Environmental and Artefact sampling policy.

2.6.4 All artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Suitable material, primarily the pottery and worked flint, were scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 The following section presents a summary of the results of the archaeological excavations and is integrated with key specialist material. It is presented as a single chronological narrative by combining the results from all three phases of works. All periods and phases of activity identified are shown in **Figure 2**. Selected evidence from the evaluation phase is also included where relevant.



- 3.1.2 The detailed assessment of the artefactual assemblage is presented in **Section 4** (below) and the environmental assemblage in **Section 5** of this report. More detailed descriptions of the archaeological features and deposits can be found in the paper and digital archive.

## 3.2 Summary of the Excavation Results

### *Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British (100 BC – AD 150)*

- 3.2.1 A moderate amount of activity attributable to the Iron Age was identified during the excavations. Although no clear evidence of settlement was found, two areas of activity were recorded within both Phase 1 and Phase 2.

#### *Ditches*

- 3.2.2 Several linear features, possibly representing boundary or drainage ditches were noted, which may relate to a wider sub-division of the landscape. Two well-defined parallel ditches (**1159** and **1161**) were recorded in Phase 2 and may represent a trackway or driveway. Aligned north-south, the ditches were c. 4.80m apart. Ditch **1159** (**Figure 2, and Figure 4: Plate 1**) on the eastern side appeared to terminate after 6.35m but continued beyond the edge of the Site to the north. The western side was marked by ditch **1161**, which ran for at least 15m, extending beyond the Site limits to the north and south. The ditches were 1.18-1.50m in width, and 0.36-0.48m in depth. Thirteen sherds of Late Iron Age-Early Romano-British pottery were recovered from the ditches. Ditch **1161** was previously recorded within Evaluation Trench 5 as a Saxon feature (ditch **503**, Wessex Archaeology 2009), but the Saxon pottery recovered from the surface of this feature during the evaluation is now thought to be intrusive.
- 3.2.3 A short section of a small, well-defined gully **1070** was located in the extreme south-western corner of Phase 2. Despite very little of the feature being revealed, a comparatively large amount (15 sherds/107g) of Late Prehistoric pottery was recovered, suggesting that this feature may predate the trackway.

#### *Pits*

- 3.2.4 The excavations revealed a number of pits within two of the excavation phases. Three discrete pits were located in the south-eastern part of Phase 1 and appeared to be enclosed on the east side by undated ditch **1261** and on the northern side by undated ditch **1260**. Pits **1011**, **1030** (**Figure 3, Section 1**) (both previously recorded within Evaluation Trench 7 as **706** and **704** respectively (Wessex Archaeology 2009)) and **1018** (**Figure 4: Plate 2**) represented large circular features, possibly storage pits. The three pits were dug in a roughly south-south-east, north-north-west alignment, and on average 0.88m apart. The pits were 1.22-1.84m wide and 0.50-0.62m deep. Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery was recovered from pits **1018** and **1030**; **1011** produced no pottery. Hulled wheat, emmer or spelt, and grain was recovered from all three of the pits.
- 3.2.5 Feature **1015** (**Figure 2 and Figure 4: Plate 3**) on the southern edge of Phase 1 may have been part of a hearth pit. Measuring 0.88m in width and only 0.10m in depth, the single fill appeared to have been burnt, whilst the oxidised nature of the natural sand at the base of the feature suggested *in situ* burning. No dating evidence was retrieved from this feature, although relatively high quantities of cereal remains and wood charcoal were recovered.
- 3.2.6 Two pits, **1047** and **1048**, were recorded within the south-western corner of Phase 2. Both were large (up to 2.5m across), shallow (average 0.29m), and contained Late Prehistoric pottery.





### *Postholes*

- 3.2.7 A number of postholes were located in the vicinity of the possible trackway in Phase 2. Datable material indicating a Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British date was recovered from posthole **1143**, and it is possible that many of the other examples are of a similar date. Postholes **1084**, **1126**, **1128**, **1130**, **1135**, **1141**, **1143** and **1146** ranged between 0.25-0.42m in diameter (average 0.35m) and 0.25-0.46m in depth (average 0.37m).
- 3.2.8 Despite the number of postholes in the north-western part of Part 2, no discernible arrangements or alignments were noted. It is possible that further examples have been lost to the high levels of modern truncation in the vicinity. Evidence of the posts themselves, recorded in the form of post-pipes, were present in features **1130** and **1143**.

### *Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)*

- 3.2.9 Two ditches of Romano-British date were recorded (**Figure 2**). Both were located in the north-eastern part of the Site and may have been contemporary. Both ditches were seen to terminate and their alignments suggest that they possibly formed an entrance in the corner of a possible sub-rectangular enclosure which extended to the north-west of the Site.
- 3.2.10 Ditch **1160** (**Figures 2, 3: Section 2 and Figure 4: Plate 4**) was located in the north-west corner of Phase 2, terminating to the south but extending northwards beyond the limit of excavation. Roughly north-south aligned, the feature was c. 2.30m wide had a distinct 'V'-shaped profile (maximum depth 1.12m). The ditch contained sherds of Romano-British pottery, daub and ceramic building material (CBM). Ditch **1160** lay directly the similarly aligned Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British trackway or driveway formed by ditches **1159** and **1161** and it is possible, therefore, that ditch **1160** represented a re-establishment of a previously boundary.
- 3.2.11 Ditch **1262** (**Figure 3: Section 3**) was located in the north-west corner of Phase 3 Area 1. Aligned at right angles to ditch 1160, with a 6.7m wide gap between them, approximately 5.60m of ditch **1262** was recorded. Roughly east-west aligned, the ditch terminated at the eastern end, whilst to the west it extended beyond the limit of excavation. The ditch was 2m wide and had a gentle 'U'-shaped profile, with a maximum depth of 0.64m.
- 3.2.12 Limited evidence of Romano-British activity was noted in Evaluation Trench 5 and 6 to the north and suggests a wider area of activity in this period in the form of postholes and gullies (Wessex Archaeology 2009).

### *Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)*

- 3.2.13 No features datable to the Saxon period were found during the excavation and the ditch identified as Saxon in the evaluation is now known to be Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British. However, a very small quantity of Saxon pottery was recovered in the upper fills of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British ditch **1161** and in modern features (**1121** and **1150**).

### *Post-medieval and modern (AD 1500 – present)*

- 3.2.14 A number of features of post-medieval date were recorded within the excavations, including several possible field boundaries of likely 18th century date. Ditch **1258** was recorded in the north-west corner of Phase 1 and contained two sherds of post-medieval redware pottery and a single fragment of CBM.



- 3.2.15 In Phase 2, a likely 18th century boundary ditch **1258** was located towards the southern end of the Site, aligned east-west. The ditch contained post-medieval pottery and CBM, and was heavily truncated by modern services. Other features included a possible pond or garden feature **1121**, a short segment of ditch **1118**, and a series of nine circular pits located in the northern half of the excavation. Features **1095** (**Figure 4: Plate 5**), **1105**, **1107**, **1113**, **1116**, **1124**, **1150**, **1152** and **1155** were similarly sized and may have been planting holes for shrubs or small trees.
- 3.2.16 Other features likely to represent garden remains were recorded within the northern half of Phase 3 Area 3. Ditches **1245** and **1253** contained post-medieval finds and may have been boundary or horticultural features. Large pit **1247** appears to have been a rubbish pit containing large quantities of pottery, coal and CBM. Pit **1242** was located towards the southern extent of the phase 3 area, and is likely to represent a modern posthole and contained modern pottery and CBM.
- 3.2.17 However, high levels of truncation were noted across the Site. This was more obvious towards the south, particularly the southern areas of Phase 3 Areas 1-3. It is possible that such disturbance was the result of post-medieval terracing, though some of it may be related to the building of the school in the 1950s (**Figure 3 Section 4** and **Figure 4: Plate 6**).

#### ***Features of uncertain date***

- 3.2.18 A number of features were identified which remain undated, particularly several ditches in Phase 1. It is likely that these ditches relate to the Iron Age activity recorded in the immediate area, although truncation by modern services hinders their interpretation. A north-south aligned ditch **1259** and later east-west aligned ditch **1258** formed an 'L'-shaped arrangement was located towards the northern part of the phase. To the immediate south of ditch **1259** was east-west aligned ditch **1260**. All may be contemporary features, based on their proximity and alignment at a right angle to each other, however, no stratigraphic relationship existed between the two. It has been noted above that ditches **1260** and **1261** appear to enclose Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pits **1011**, **1018** and **1030**.
- 3.2.19 Four undated postholes, in two pairs, were recorded in Phase 1. Postholes **1005** and **1007** lay to the north of, and on a similar alignment to, pits **1011**, **1018** and **1030**. Postholes **1033** and **1035** were located to the north of ditch **1258**.

## **4 FINDS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 This section considers the finds recovered from all stages of work on the Site, including those already reported on (Wessex Archaeology 2009; 2010b; 2010c). The overall assemblage is small, and is dominated by pottery, with other material types occurring in much smaller proportions. The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, with a focus in the Romano-British period.
- 4.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Appendix 1**. The finds are discussed by material type below.

### **4.2 Pottery**

- 4.2.1 Pottery was the most commonly occurring material type recovered, and provides most of the (limited) dating evidence for the Site. This small assemblage includes material of



prehistoric, Late Iron Age/Romano-British, Saxon and post-medieval date. Condition is variable: prehistoric sherds, in softer fired fabrics, and occurring in several cases as residual sherds, are more heavily abraded.

4.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified (context by context) by ware type; for Romano-British and later pottery, the Museum of London fabric series has been used. A chronological breakdown of the pottery by ware type is given in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type**

Period	Ware	Type Code	No. Sherds	Weight (g)
NEOLITHIC	Peterborough ware		1	5
L PREHISTORIC	Sandy ware		11	140
	Flint-tempered ware		68	608
	<i>sub-total late prehistoric</i>		<b>79</b>	<b>748</b>
LIA/ROMAN	Grog-tempered ware	GROG	14	206
	Greyware, source unspec	SAND	85	1599
	Whiteware		4	29
	Oxidised ware	OXID	1	23
	<i>sub-total LIA/Roman</i>		<b>104</b>	<b>1857</b>
SAXON	Sandy/organic-tempered ware	CHFS	2	11
	Organic-tempered ware	CHAF	3	12
	<i>sub-total early/middle Saxon</i>		<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>
POST-MEDIEVAL	Creamware	CREA	7	21
	English stoneware	ENGS BRS	2	42
	Post-medieval redware	PMR	9	115
	Post-medieval redware	PMR	5	77
	Refined whiteware	REFW	4	13
	Staffs-type slipware	STSL	1	47
	White salt glaze	SWSG	3	11
	Tinglazed ware	TGW	1	1
	Transfer-printed ware	TPW	4	20
	Yellow ware	YELL	1	3
	<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>		<b>37</b>	<b>350</b>
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>		<b>226</b>	<b>2983</b>

*Early Prehistoric*

4.2.3 The earliest sherd is a small, abraded body sherd from evaluation feature **108**, in a coarse, flint-tempered fabric, with traces of two finger-tip impressions. This has been identified as probably belonging to the Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware ceramic tradition, although sub-style is uncertain. This sherd was a residual find in a post-medieval context.

*Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British*

4.2.4 Sixty-nine sherds have been broadly dated as Iron Age. These are in sandy fabrics, some also containing fine, randomly sorted flint inclusions. Diagnostic sherds are limited to two rims, neither from particularly chronologically distinctive vessels (pits **1018**, **1030**), and one finger-impressed shoulder (pit **1047**). The latter decorative feature, combined with the fabric types, suggests a date range in the Early Iron Age, although the possibility that some sherds fall later in the Iron Age, as was suggested for the sherds recovered from the evaluation, cannot be ruled out.



4.2.5 Late prehistoric pottery derived from 18 contexts, but in only six features does it provide the only datable evidence (pits **704/1030**, **1047**, **1133**; posthole **1130**; gully **1070**; ditch **503/1161**), occurring residually in other contexts. Even in the former group, however, the quantity (ranging from one to 15 sherds), size and condition of the sherds, and their small quantity, suggests that these are unlikely to represent in situ deposits. Mean sherd weight overall for the late prehistoric sherds is 9.4g.

#### *Romano-British*

4.2.6 Just under half of the assemblage by sherd count dates to the Late Iron Age to Romano-British period (104 sherds). These consist largely of wheel-thrown greywares (SAND), with some grog-tempered wares (GROG) which potentially span the conquest period, one oxidised sandy ware and four whitewares (OXID). Diagnostic pieces comprise one bead rim jar and a flagon neck (both from ditch **1160**), a second flagon neck from posthole **1240**, and four everted rim jars (one from ditch **1160**, three from ditch **1262**). Of the three jars, one has a hooked rim and the other two have cavetto rims, suggesting a late Romano-British date.

4.2.7 The largest group of Romano-British pottery came from ditch **1262**, and accounts for over half of the pottery from this chronological group (57 sherds). This group was in relatively good condition, featuring large sherds with low levels of edge and surface abrasion (mean sherd weight for this group is 22.3g). Other sherds occurred in small quantities in several other features (no more than six sherds in any one feature), are characterised by smaller, more heavily abraded sherds (mean sherd weight 12.5g), and cannot therefore be regarded as reliable dating evidence.

#### *Early/Middle Saxon*

4.2.8 Five sherds are of early/middle Saxon date. Three are in organic-tempered (CHAF) and two in sandy/organic-tempered fabrics (CHFS), both of which are typical of the period from the 5th to the 8th centuries AD. All five were residual in later features.

#### *Post-Medieval*

4.2.9 The remaining sherds are post-medieval or modern in date, and consist largely of coarse redwares (PMR), mostly deriving from unglazed flowerpots; and creamwares and refined whitewares, some transfer-printed (CREA, TPW, REFW). The glazed redwares occurred in utilitarian kitchen ware forms, mainly bowls and other open forms, while the finer wares supplied tea wares and other serving wares.

4.2.10 Also present are a few English stonewares with feldspathic 'Bristol' glazes (ENGS BRS), including a sherd from a 'hunt jug', one sherd of plain white tinglazed earthenware (TGW), and a few sherds of white salt glaze (SWSG) and Staffordshire-type slipware (STSL).

4.2.11 Post-medieval sherds occurred as a very low-level scatter across the Site.

### **4.3 Ceramic Building Material**

4.3.1 The small amount of CBM includes fragments of brick and roof tile. One fragment was identified as Romano-British (ditch **1160**). Thirteen fragments are of medieval roof tile, and the remainder comprised post-medieval brick, and one possible piece of pantile. One of the bricks has a very rudimentary frog (pit **1068**), but otherwise none are of known form or dimensions. None of the CBM came from in situ structural elements.



#### **4.4 Clay tobacco pipe**

- 4.4.1 The clay tobacco pipes consist largely of plain stem fragments, with one small bowl fragment with wheat-ear decoration, and a stem retaining part of a spur (stamped with a maker's mark ?/S), both from pit **1107**.

#### **4.5 Worked and Burnt flint**

- 4.5.1 The worked flint consists of a few small waste flakes, two of bladelikey form. The latter two pieces (contexts **1096**, **1151**) are both in the same light grey flint, and are in relatively fresh condition, while the remainder utilise poorer quality gravel-derived flint, and include some edge-damaged pieces.
- 4.5.2 Similar light grey flint has been observed, for example, amongst Neolithic assemblages from west London, where it appears to have been utilised for polished axes; a mined source in Sussex has been suggested (Bradley pers.comm.). There is no indication however, that these two pieces derived from polished axes or other tools, although the bladelikey form would suggest an early prehistoric date.
- 4.5.3 Burnt, unworked flint was recovered in greater quantities (although not exceeding 329g in any single context). This material type is intrinsically undatable, and is not necessarily of anthropogenic origin, but is frequently taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. In this instance only a small proportion was recovered from contexts dated as prehistoric (or, at least, containing only prehistoric artefacts), while the majority came from Romano-British contexts.

#### **4.6 Stone**

- 4.6.1 A single small, featureless fragment from a lava quernstone came from evaluation pit **603**. Although associated with sherds of Iron Age pottery, this is unlikely to be earlier than Romano-British in date, and it could be later.
- 4.6.2 Two pieces of post-medieval roofing slate were also recovered (context 1096).

#### **4.7 Glass**

- 4.7.1 Two pieces of vessel glass (**1108**, **1125**), and a piece of window glass (**1079**) are modern.

#### **4.8 Metalwork**

- 4.8.1 A group of 29 iron hobnails, likely to represent the remains of footwear, was recovered from ditch **1218**, associated with Romano-British pottery.
- 4.8.2 An iron nail from context **1123** is likely to be post-medieval.

#### **4.9 Other Finds**

- 4.9.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of animal bone; fired clay (undiagnostic) and ironworking slag. None of these finds are closely datable.

### **5 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 A total of 18 bulk samples were taken from features of Late Iron Age to Romano-British date during three phases of work on the site. These were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal.



5.1.2 The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:

**Table 3: Sample provenance summary**

Phase of Work	Period	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Phase 1	Late Iron Age/Early Romano British	9	174	Ditches, pits, posthole, hearth
Phase 2	Late Iron Age/Early Romano British	5	148	Ditches, pits, posthole
Phase 2	Early Romano-British	1	39	Ditch
Phase 3 Area 1	Romano-British	3	70	Ditch, posthole
<b>Totals</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>431</b>	

## 5.2 Charred plant remains

5.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Appendix 2**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

5.2.2 The flots varied in size with high to low numbers of roots and modern seeds and frequent fragments of coal and coal/slag. The coal slag is probably associated with 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural activity and, along with the roots and modern seeds, hints at the possibility of intrusive elements being brought into some of the features from much later activity. The charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation but was generally fairly poorly preserved.

### **Phase 1**

5.2.3 Within the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British samples, the predominant remains were of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), in particular glume bases but also grains. These largely came from the three pits (**1011**, **1018** and **1030**), while remains of cereals were less common within ditches **1010**, **1023** and **1031**. While poor preservation made identification largely impossible, within pit **1018** it is probable that emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) is represented. However, these features contained few weed seeds. These included seeds of meadow grass/cats'-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.), vetch (*Vicia* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.) and bramble (*Rubus* sp.).

5.2.4 More numerous cereal remains were recovered within possible hearth **1015**. These included grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and quite possibly oats (*Avena* sp.). The last are difficult to distinguish from wild species in the absence of the floret base, although most of the grains were very large in size. This material was also notably better preserved than the cereal grains within the pits.

5.2.5 The other remains present were fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*). These were noted in the sample from ditches **1010** and **1031**, pit **1017** and hearth **1015**, in highest numbers in the latter.



### **Phase 2**

- 5.2.6 Only small quantities of charred remains were observed in the five samples from Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British features. The few charred cereal remains recovered were generally indeterminate grain fragments, but also included a possible grain fragment of barley and a low number of fragments of glumes of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt. Other charred plant remains included a few fragments of hazelnut shell and a small number of weed seeds including seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) and brassicas (Brassicaceae).
- 5.2.7 The sample from the Early Romano-British ditch **1160** only produced a few indeterminate grain fragments.

### **Phase 3 Area 1**

- 5.2.8 Small quantities of charred cereal remains and a few weed seeds were recorded in the assemblages from Romano-British ditch **1262**. There was also a small number of cereal remains recovered from posthole **1240**. The cereal remains included barley grain fragments and hulled wheat grain and glume base fragments. The small quantities of weed seeds included seeds of oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea and possibly celtic bean (*Vicia faba*).
- 5.2.9 These small charred plant assemblages are compatible with those indicative of arable and field margin environments for this period, away from the settlement itself. A greater number, although albeit relatively small, of charred remains were recovered from the Phase 1 excavation and it is possible that the charred plant assemblages from Phase 2 and Phase 3 Area 1 are further away towards the edge of the settlement.

## **5.3 Wood charcoal**

- 5.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 2**. Charcoal fragments greater than 4 mm were retrieved in moderate quantities from Early/Middle Iron Age hearth **1015** in Phase 1 and Iron Age ditch **1070** in Phase 2. The charcoal contained round and mature wood fragments.

## **6 PROJECT RESEARCH THEMES AND FURTHER POTENTIAL**

### **6.1 Project Research Themes**

#### ***Introduction***

- 6.1.1 The principal objective of the work was to record all significant archaeological deposits/features through manual excavation and utilisation of appropriate artefact and environmental sampling strategies. This would then enable an interpretation of the Site to be made such that it could be understood within the wider landscape.

#### ***Original Research Themes***

- 6.1.2 Beyond the initial aims of the excavation to identify buried archaeological remains and to assess their character, date and condition of any surviving features or deposits, the excavation sought to achieve the following aims:
- *The clarification and further confirmation of the results of the archaeological evaluation;*
  - *The identification of other periods not previously identified in the evaluation at Holland Park School;*



- *The date and function of the Site;*
- *Understand the setting of the Site in relation to previous archaeological investigations in the immediate area, principally the work undertaken at Sir John Atkins Building and The Philimores, which revealed Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon activity.*

6.1.3 Specific research aims of the excavation, with direct reference to the Greater London Archaeology Research Framework (MoLAS 2000; 2002), are to:

- *Understand whether the transition from the late pre-Roman Iron Age to Roman Britain and from Roman Britain to Saxon was wholly about change or whether there is more evidence than previously thought for continuity;*
- *Study the impact of settlement and/or agriculture on the environment;*
- *Identify rural land use and the extent of agricultural exploitation;*
- *Refine and date the local ceramic sequence;*
- *Refine existing chronologies for settlement within the hinterland of Roman and Saxon London.*

6.1.4 It is considered that the results of the excavation are adequately covered by the original research themes set out in the WSI, and therefore do not need updating.

## **6.2 Statements of potential**

### ***Overview of stratigraphic sequence***

6.2.1 The excavation has revealed several phases of activity on the Site, dated by finds (principally pottery), to the Iron Age, Romano-British and post-medieval/modern periods. As such, the Site has added to the growing knowledge of the archaeology within this part of Kensington, London. The results from the excavations broadly corroborate with the results of the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2009), and in turn appears build on the evidence recorded from previous archaeological investigations in the immediate area.

### ***Iron Age***

6.2.2 The excavations have revealed evidence for activity in the Late Iron Age-Early Romano-British period. Two parallel ditches appear to have defined a trackway. The alignment of this feature and the distribution of finds (see below) suggests possible settlement to the north-west beyond the limits of the excavation. Various other ditches may be related to this period of activity, principally on Phase 1, by their characteristics, alignments and location, although they remain undated.

6.2.3 More generally, evidence of linear boundaries including trackways may indicate a far wider sub-division of the landscape, most likely for agricultural purposes. Similar boundary or drainage features were recorded at the nearby excavations at Sir John Atkins Building (PCA 2002), where a single, substantial north-south aligned ditch was recorded. When considered in conjunction with each other, we could actually be seeing a far wider Iron Age field system and agricultural landscape, perhaps creating landholdings surrounding settlement areas. The ditches appear to be an initial formalisation of the landscape although evidence was recovered for Bronze Age activity at both The Philimores (PCA 2003) and Sir John Atkins Building (PCA 2002), albeit limited. Further analysis has the potential to define the phased development of the ditches and possible enclosures when considering all available data. The analysis may also determine whether the features





relate directly to a settlement with little surviving structural evidence, or were nearby or on the periphery of a nearby settlement.

- 6.2.4 Further evidence of human activity from the Late Iron Age-Early Romano-British period also hints at settlement within the immediate area. Although no coherent structural remains were found, pottery, charred plant remains and other domestic material was recovered from a number of discrete features on the Site. This included several possible storage pits and postholes, which are likely to reflect settlement nearby.
- 6.2.5 Overall, the construction of enclosures and trackways in the Iron Age appears to mark a significant period within the chronology of the Site, and characterises a major change in the use of the landscape. At present, the information indicates that extensive land organisation was being undertaken in what would become the hinterland of Roman London during the Middle-Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British period. Despite the Roman Conquest of AD 43 and the establishment of Roman London and its infrastructure, the Site can be seen as further evidence of well-established Iron Age farming communities and practices continuing relatively unchanged into the Roman period.

#### *Romano-British*

- 6.2.6 Although limited, evidence of continued activity on the Site in the Roman period is provided by two ditches. Substantial in size, both appear to terminate, possibly forming an entrance to an enclosure or wider field system. Acting as the south-eastern corner of an enclosure, the ditches may have acted as a significant barrier or boundary within the landscape. Despite being limited in information, the ditches do indicate a continued land-use and landscape division well into the Romano-British period. The eastern most ditch, **1160**, may have been a reinstatement of the previous system, in this case the two parallel ditches which may have formed a trackway or driveway. Further analysis will hopefully confirm the phasing of the ditches, and therefore the development of the Site.

#### *Post-medieval/modern*

- 6.2.7 A number of the post-medieval features may relate to agricultural activity, or more likely garden features. Specifically, much of the land was the former grounds of the Jacobean mansion called Cope Castle, renamed Holland House which remained gardens until the later decades of the 19th century. Several features are characteristic of garden features, such as possible planting pits to contain shrubs or small trees, horticultural planting beds, and a possible pond. Further cartographic and documentary research may provide more information as to the development of the Site in the post-medieval periods, and particular its place in the landscape around Holland House.
- 6.2.8 The high levels of truncation noted towards the southern extents of the Site may be related to a period of modern landscape terracing, therefore damaging and destroying any archaeological deposits which may have been present. It is possible that the terracing is related to the construction of the 1950s-built school buildings. If not modern in date, the works may relate to post-medieval landscaping, associated with the number of garden features noted during the excavations. Further documentary analysis may provide some indication as to the date of the terracing.

#### *Finds potential*

- 6.2.9 This is a small finds assemblage and its potential is correspondingly limited. It has provided a chronological framework for the Site, with the usual caveats arising from the small quantities involved. Further analysis is unlikely to enable any refinement of this dating, nor to offer any further insight into the nature of activity on the Site. All finds have



been recorded to an appropriate archive level, and no further work is proposed. The information gathered as part of the assessment stage, and presented in this report, could be summarised for incorporation in any publication report for the Site. No finds warrant illustration.

- 6.2.10 A few sherds of Saxon pottery hint at some activity in the vicinity in this period, but little more. However, the charred plant remains from the otherwise undated hearth are suggestive (with the presence of free threshing wheat and oats) of this being a Saxon features. Radiocarbon dating may confirm this.

### ***Environmental potential***

#### ***Charred plant remains***

- 6.2.11 The charred remains have the potential to provide information regarding the range of crops grown and some information on general agricultural husbandry techniques. However, the generally poor preservation, the paucity of the remains, and the possibility of intrusive material does limit this potential somewhat.

#### ***Wood charcoal***

- 6.2.12 There is little potential for the analysis of the wood charcoal to provide information on the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource (and any species selection) due to the small quantity of wood charcoal recovered.

## **7 AIMS AND METHODS**

### **7.1 Introduction**

- 7.1.1 This section details the aims and method statements for analysis and references the required tasks (**Tasklist, Table 4**).

- 7.1.2 The known archaeological background for the surrounding area will be reviewed. This will include checking published reports and available archaeological 'grey literature'. Such information will contribute towards discussion of land utilisation through time beyond the boundaries of the Site.

- 7.1.3 The following further analyses are recommended:

#### ***Stratigraphic (task 3)***

- 7.1.4 Stratigraphic analysis will include checking the grouping, stratigraphy and contents of the features to determine the Site's sequence and development. Provisional phasing will be confirmed, and will be checked and corrected on the project database. Initial specialist analyses will only begin once this stage of work is complete, when a review of the pottery spot-dating will be undertaken.

#### ***Artefacts (tasks 6-7)***

- 7.1.5 No further work is proposed, although it is recommended that the assessment results are written up prior to publication.

#### ***Environmental (tasks 8)***

##### ***Charred plant remains***

- 7.1.6 No further work is proposed but the assessment results should be written up for publication.



*Wood charcoal*

- 7.1.7 No further work is proposed.

## **8 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION**

### **8.1 Introduction**

- 8.1.1 The results of the Site have local significance when considering the development of the Iron Age activity in what would become the hinterland of Roman London, and as such warrants publication. It is proposed that, following the limited further analyses outlined above, a short article describing the results of the archaeological fieldwork will be submitted for publication in *The London Archaeologist*, a peer-reviewed journal with a regional and national readership.
- 8.1.2 The report will comprise a brief introduction giving background of the project, followed by a largely integrated, synthetic narrative describing the development of activity on the Site, incorporating relevant specialist detail within the narrative text. The significance of the findings will be discussed within their local and regional contexts.

#### ***Provisional synopsis of LAMAS article***

Working title:

#### ***Iron Age and Romano-British activity at Holland Park School, Kensington***

*By Gareth Chaffey,*

Introduction	500 words
Iron Age landscape sub-division	750 words
Romano-British development	300 words
Post-medieval and later landscape development	400 words
Discussion	750 words

Total: approximately 3000 words, 2 figures, 2 plates

### **8.2 Management structure**

- 8.2.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by a Post-Excavation Manager who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the project specification as outlined in the Project Design, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or scheduled.
- 8.2.2 The Post-Excavation Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other keystaff, who will both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Post-Excavation Manager will have a major input into how the publication report is written. They will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.



### 8.3 Performance monitoring and quality standards

- 8.3.1 The Post-Excavation Manager will be assisted by the Reports Manager, who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

### 8.4 Personnel

- 8.4.1 The following Wessex Archaeology core staff are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list for post-excavation analysis and publication (**Table 4**).

**Table 4: Task list**

Task No	Task Description	Staff	Days
<b>Management and Support</b>			
1	Project Management	A Barclay	3
2	Project Monitor and QA	P Bradley	1
<b>Pre-analysis</b>			
3	Check phasing and stratigraphic analysis, update site database	G Chaffey	2
4	Brief specialists	G Chaffey	1
5	Background research	G Chaffey	2
<b>Finds analysis</b>			
6	Pottery	L Mepham	3
7	Other finds	L Mepham	1
<b>Environmental analysis</b>			
8	Charred Plant Remains	S Wyles	1
<b>Reporting</b>			
9	Introduction	G Chaffey	0.5
10	Iron Age landscape sub-division	G Chaffey	2
11	Romano-British development	G Chaffey	0.5
12	Post-medieval and later landscape development	G Chaffey	1
13	Discussion	G Chaffey	2
14	Pottery Report	L Mepham	1
15	Illustrations	E James	2
16	Check and compile Bibliography	G Chaffey	0.5
17	Compile and integrate report	G Chaffey	1
18	Edit report	G Chaffey	1
19	Review report	P Bradley	1
20	Check proofs	All	1
21	Liaising with journal	P Bradley	0.5
22	Journal publication cost LAMAS		n/a
<b>Archiving</b>			
23	Environmental archiving	S Wyles	1
24	Archive preparation	G Chaffey	1
25	Archive preparation	S Nelson	1
26	Microfilm job sheets and checking	L Mepham	0.5
27	Microfilm paper records	Ext.	n/a
28	Archive deposition	S Nelson	0.5
29	Box storage grant		n/a



## 9 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 9.1 Museum

9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Museum of London. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **HDK09**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### 9.2 Archive

9.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Museum of London, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code **HDK09**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 3 cardboard boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 3 files of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;
- Digital data (Access databases, Excel spreadsheets, Word documents, survey data, photographs, graphics, AutoCAD drawings).

### 9.3 Conservation

9.3.1 There are no conservation requirements.

### 9.4 Selection and Retention

9.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, following the Museum of London guidelines for selection and retention, all burnt (unworked) flint has been discarded. This discard has been fully documented in the project archive.

9.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

### 9.5 Security Copy

9.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



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## APPENDIX 1: ALL FINDS BY CONTEXT (NUMBER/WEIGHT IN GRAMMES)

Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	CBM	POTTERY				Other Finds
				Prehist.	LIA/Roman	Saxon	Post-Med.	
0109				1/5				1 clay pipe
0504		8/12		2/10	3/110	2/6		2 glass
0604		12/88		3/80				4 worked flint; 1 stone
0607				1/9	4/50	1/6		
0705				2/30				
0802			1/37		1/7		1/1	
1003			1/19				2/38	
1016	2/1	98/221						1 slag
1017	20/9			3/22	2/56			1 fired clay
1024	1/1							
1029	1/1			5/37				
1032								3 fired clay
1036								
1046				8/93				
1050				6/38	5/34			1 fired clay
1052			1/105		1/4			
1060			2/102				2/11	
1061							1/16	
1062							3/50	
1063			3/1320					
1066	1/2		3/26				1/3	1 clay pipe
1069			2/638					
1071				15/107				
1075			3/271		1/27		3/10	
1079			1/14				4/40	4 clay pipe; 1 glass
1081			1/11					





1083		2/93		6/190	1/3			
1093		111/260	1/144	8/20	6/62			
1096			3/60				2/8	1 worked flint; 2 slag; 2 stone
1101		147/329		1/2	6/27			1 worked flint
1104				2/22				5 fired clay
1106							1/1	
1108	3/25				1/3		2/6	2 clay pipe; 1 glass; 2 slag
1110					1/18			
1112					1/21			
1117			2/56				2/44	
1120			1/23				1/5	
1122							1/7	
1123	2/6		1/48	1/6		1/6	2/73	3 clay pipe; 1 iron
1125							1/4	1 clay pipe; 1 glass
1131				1/5				
1134		115/228		11/53				3 worked flint
1136		84/179			1/11			
1144					3/59			
1149		163/303		3/15	3/5			1 worked flint
1151						1/5	2/12	1 worked flint
1154			3/36		1/4		3/9	2 clay pipe
1156			1/21				3/12	
1207					3/60			1 worked flint
1208								1 worked flint
1209					1/2			
1215				1/9	26/597			29 iron
1216					9/302			
1217					22/373			
1239					2/22			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>30/45</b>	<b>740/1713</b>	<b>30/2931</b>	<b>80/753</b>	<b>104/1857</b>	<b>5/23</b>	<b>37/350</b>	



## APPENDIX 2: ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS AND CHARCOAL

Samples				Flot								Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
Feature	Context	Sam ple	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains			Comments					
						Grain	Chaff	Other						
<b>Phase 1</b>														
<b>Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British</b>														
<b>Ditches</b>														
1010	1009	10	20	50	40	C	-	C	Coal, poorly preserved single frag. <i>Corylusavellana</i> shell. V. fresh ½ barley grain	1/2ml	-	-		
1023	1024	14	20	40	40	C	C	-	Coal, slag. <i>Vicia</i> sp. Single grain and glume base	1/1ml	-	-		
1027	1028	16	15	40	50	-	-	-	Slag + coal, some charcoal.	-	-	-		
1031	1032	17	14	35	70	C	-	C	Lots of slag + coal, 4x <i>Corylusavellana</i> , Hulled wheat x1	-	-	-		
<b>Pits</b>														
1011	1013	11	30	140	30	-	A	C	Coal/slag. 12x glumes, 2x <i>Phleum</i> type	1/2ml	-	-		
1018	1017	12	25	140	20	A	A	B	?Coal, burnt bone. 11x glumes + spikelet fork (prob. emmer). 2x <i>Corylusavellana</i> frag. 1x <i>Rumex</i> , 2x <i>Poa/Phleum</i> . 8x hulled wheat, 2-3 barley	3/3ml	-	P		
1030	1029	13	20	70	40	B	A	-	Coal slag; 9x glume bases v. badly preserved. 4x hulled wheat grain, 2-3 barley?	1/1ml	-	-		
<b>Posthole</b>														
1005	1006	15	12	40	20	-	-	C	Lot of coal of slag less charcoal bit of twig. <i>Rubus</i> , ?grain	1/1ml	-	-		
<b>Hearth</b>														
1015	1016	18	18	140	60	A	-	A	Oak charcoal. <i>Avena</i> , barley, free-threshing wheat. <i>Corylusavellana</i> shell fragments	8/8ml	-	-		
<b>Phase 2</b>														
<b>Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British</b>														
<b>Ditches</b>														
1070	1071	50	20	150	15	C	-	B	Indet. grain frags, <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	10/20 ml	coal	-		



Samples				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sam ple	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments			
1099	1101	51	40	50	7	C	-	C	Indet. grain frags, <i>Corylusavellana</i> shell frag, Brassicaceae, <i>Avena/Bromus</i>	2/3 ml	coal	-
1148	1149	54	38	80	20	C	-	-	Indet. grain frag	3/12 ml	coal	-
<b>Pit</b>												
1133	1134	52	30	150	50	C	C	-	Indet. grain frags, glume frag	3/15 ml	coal, slag	-
<b>Posthole</b>												
1135	1136	55	20	40	7	C	-	C	Indet. and ?barley grain frags, Brassicaceae, <i>Avena/Bromus</i>	2/4 ml	coal	-
<b>Early Romano-British</b>												
<b>Ditch</b>												
1092	1093	53	39	40	60	C	-	-	Indet. grain frags	1/3 ml	coal, slag	-
<b>Phase 3 Area 1</b>												
<b>Early Romano-British</b>												
<b>Ditch</b>												
1218	1215	56	30	150	60	B	C	C	Barley grain frags, glume base frags, <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	1/8 ml	coal	-
	1217	55	30	100	50	C	C	C	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, glume base frags, <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , cf. <i>Viciafaba</i>	1/5 ml	coal	-
<b>Posthole</b>												
1240	1239	57	10	60	65	C	C	-	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frag	1/3 ml	coal	-

Key: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5;



## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-166299**

### Project details

Project name	Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AF
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Turner and Townsend, on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, to undertake a phased programme of archaeological excavation at the Holland Park School. The archaeological works were in support of a planning application to redevelop the site, which would involve the demolition of the existing 1950s-built school and the construction of a new school and sports area. The fieldwork comprised a trial trench evaluation in August 2009 followed by three staged phases of excavation from March 2010 to June 2013. The fieldwork has revealed evidence for human activity dating from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval/modern period. This assessment report presents the results from all phases of excavation. The excavation identified a small number of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British features. Evidence included several possible boundary or enclosure ditches, whilst two parallel ditches may have formed a driveway or trackway, perhaps part of a wider sub-divided, agricultural landscape. Although no direct settlement evidence was recorded, a few pits and postholes may indicate occupation nearby. The Romano-British period was poorly represented, although two ditches are of this date. Substantial in size, the two features possibly formed the south-east entrance to an enclosure or field system to the north-west of the site. A number of post-medieval features were also recorded across the site, and relate to the landscape that covered the Holland Park area until the 19th century. Much of the land was the former grounds of the Jacobean mansion called Cope Castle, renamed Holland House which remained gardens until the later decades of the 19th century. Several features probably represent garden features, and include pits dug for shrubs or small trees, horticultural planting beds, and a possible pond.</p>
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2010 End: 31-07-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HDK09 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	71394 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes 71393 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes wessexar1-65535 - OASIS form ID

Type of project Recording project

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type PITS Late Iron Age

Monument type DITCHES Late Iron Age

Monument type DITCHES Roman

Monument type DITCHES Post Medieval

Monument type PITS Post Medieval

Monument type GARDEN FEATURES Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Late Iron Age

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Roman

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Investigation type "Full excavation"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA Holland Park School

Postcode W8 7AF

Study area 2000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates 524965 179915 524965 00 00 N 179915 00 00 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service

Project design originator Wessex Archaeology

Project director/manager Damian de Rosa

Project supervisor Joe Brown

Project supervisor J Milward

Project supervisor Gareth Chaffey

Project supervisor Chloe Hunnisett

Project supervisor Chris Harrison

Type of sponsor/funding body London Borough of Kennington and Chelsea

Name of sponsor/funding body London Borough of Kennington & Chelsea

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal"

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London

Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Metal"

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

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens, Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AF. Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

Author(s)/Editor(s) Chaffey, G

Other bibliographic details HDK09

Other bibliographic details 71394.01

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

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Description WA standard format A4 report with 4 figures comprising site plans, features, sections and 6 plates

Entered by Damian De Rosa (d.derosa@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 5 December 2013

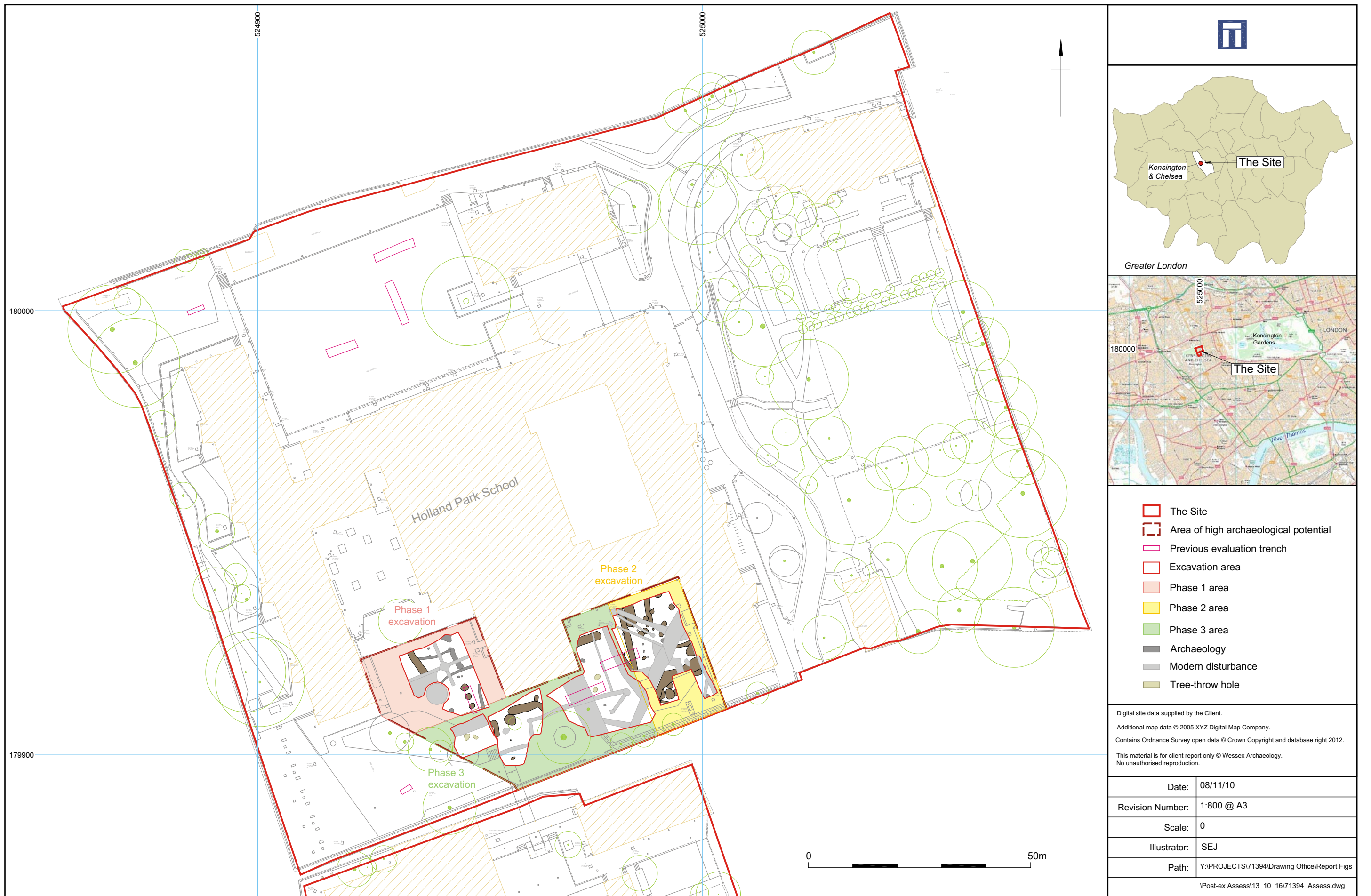
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Site location

Figure 1



- Area of high archaeological potential
- Excavation area
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Late Iron Age - Early Romano-British
- Romano-British
- Post-medieval
- Undated
- Modern disturbance
- Tree-throw hole
- ← Number and direction of plate
- Section line

Digital site data supplied by Client  
 Contains Ordnance Survey open data © Crown Copyright and database right 2012.  
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Date:	16/10/13	Revision Number:	0
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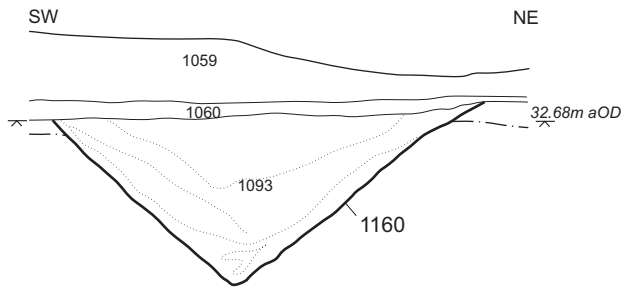
Phase 1, 2 and 3 excavation areas with phasing

Figure 2

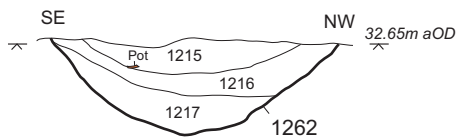
**Section 1**



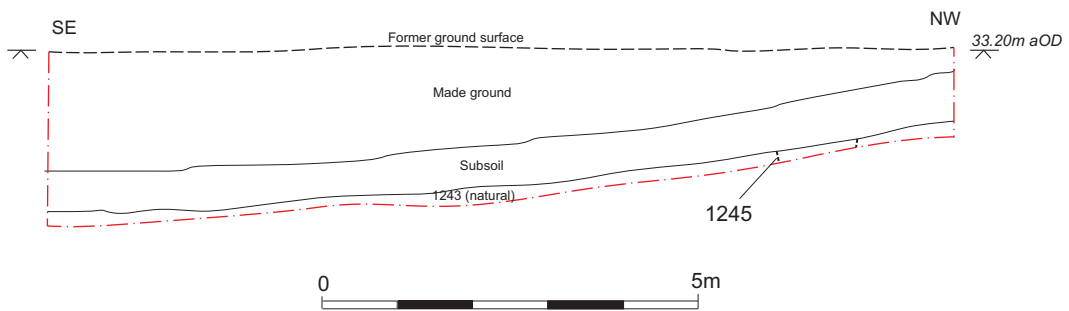
**Section 2**



**Section 3**



**Section 4**



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Date:	05/11/13	Revision Number:	1
Scale:	Sections 1-3 1:50, Section 4 1:100	Illustrator:	SEJ
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Plate 1: North facing section of ditch 1159, Phase 2



Plate 2: South facing section of pit 1018, Phase 1



Plate 3: North-east facing section of hearth pit 1015, Phase 1



Plate 4: South facing section of ditch 1160, Phase 2



Plate 5: East facing section of Phase 3, Area 3



Plate 6: West facing section of pit 1095, Phase 2



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