Gideon Road
Wandsworth, Greater London

Geoarchaeological Borehole Survey

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kind and Co (Builders) Ltd, to carry out a geoarchaeological borehole survey on land at Gideon Road, Wandsworth, Greater London, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 528108, 175808.

A Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2018a) identified potential for geoarchaeologically significant deposits to be present at the Site; in particular, it suggested that deposits of the Langley Silt Member and Pleistocene Head deposits may present. Both locally and regionally, such deposits are known repositories for Palaeolithic and, in the case of the former, Mesolithic artefacts.

A geoarchaeological borehole survey and deposit modelling of the results was, therefore, commissioned to assess the geoarchaeological (including palaeoenvironmental) and archaeological potential of the deposits beneath the Site.

The aim of this initial phase of site investigations was to obtain the information and datasets to allow informed recommendations for any further geoarchaeological work, including detailed palaeoenvironmental assessment, should they be required.

This geoarchaeological borehole survey comprised the recovery of sleeved cores at 8 locations using a percussive window sampling rig. Excepting instances where only recent made ground was present, all cores were sealed on-site and retained to allow for off-site recording. This recording was carried out at Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury and the data used to model the stratigraphy across the evaluation area. The cores have been retained.

No deposits ascribable to the Langley Silt Member, or identifiable as Pleistocene Head, were encountered. However, an extensive Holocene alluvial sequence was recorded across the site, the top of which has been truncated by previous development. This sedimentary sequence relates to those investigated to the north-east at the US Embassy site at Nine Elms (MOLA 2014) and at New Covent Garden, Wandsworth (Wessex Archaeology 2015, Payne *et al*. 2018). The deposits and associated paleoenvironmental datasets from these locales are associated with the Battersea Channel (a Late Glacial and Early Holocene landform of the River Thames) and reflect environmental and landscape change from the early Holocene through to the historic period.

The geoarchaeological potential of the alluvial deposits found at the Site was assessed. Whilst the potential of the majority of the units is low, a peat recorded at base of the sequence within Borehole 8 has high potential; this is an ideal context for the preservation of material for radiocarbon dating, along with plant micro- and macro-fossils and invertebrate remains that provide key data on past vegetation environments, climate, land-use and the long-term impact of human communities on the landscape. Based on the comparable OD height between this peat and similar deposits identified at the US Embassy Site, the peat may have accumulated during the early Holocene.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Kind & Co (Builders) Limited for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, and Ground Technology Services Ltd for their assistance with the coring itself.

The fieldwork was directed by Holly Rodgers. This report was written by Andrew Shaw with contributions by Holly Rodgers. The project was managed by Dave Norcott on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

GIDEON ROAD, WANDSWORTH, GREATER LONDON

Geoarchaeological Borehole Survey

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kind and Co (Builders) Ltd (the Client), to undertake a geoarchaeological borehole survey in support of a planning application for the redevelopment of land at Gideon Road, Wandsworth, Greater London, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 528108, 175808.

1.1.2 The Site comprises an irregular parcel of land of approximately 4049 square meters located near to Clapham, some 1.2km to the west of Clapham, 1.4km northeast of Clapham Junction station and 1km to the south of Battersea (**Figure 1**).

1.1.3 The Site is currently used for car parking with a number of garages and storage sheds across the Site. The Site is bordered in all directions by residential housing.

1.1.4 The planning application for the redevelopment of the Site was submitted in October 2016 (2016/5738), and the following condition was imposed upon the development:

> *Condition 28 A): "No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured and prepared a suitable archaeological desk-based assessment report in accordance with Historic England and CIfA guidance which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing."*
>
> *Reason: "In order that the archaeological remains that may exist on the site be investigated, in accordance with Council policies DMS2(d)."*

1.1.5 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology, to establish the nature of the geology and potential for archaeological deposits (if present) beneath the Site (Wessex Archaeology, 2018a).

1.1.6 The DBA identified superficial deposits of potential archaeological significance mapped by the British Geological Survey within the Site; deposits of the Langley Silt Member – often associated with minimally disturbed primary contexts containing Middle Palaeolithic to Mesolithic artefacts. Additionally, Palaeolithic artefacts (sealed by Head deposits) have been recovered near the Site (Wessex Archaeology, 2018a).

1.1.7 Due to the lack of previous archaeological investigations within the Site, the presence, location and significance of any buried heritage assets within the Site boundary, could not be confirmed within the DBA based on the available information.

1.1.8 A geoarchaeological borehole survey and deposit modelling of the results was, therefore, commissioned to assess the geoarchaeological (including palaeoenvironmental) and archaeological potential of the deposits beneath the Site, enabling a more accurate judgement on the likely impact of the proposed development.

1.1.9 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, objectives, methodologies and standards to be employed to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2018b).

1.1.10 The geoarchaeological borehole survey was undertaken between the 6th-7th September 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the geoarchaeological borehole survey, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider geoarchaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the geoarchaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further geoarchaeological works, including palaeoenvironmental assessment.

1.2.3 To help frame geoarchaeological investigations of this nature, Wessex Archaeology has developed a five-stage approach, encompassing different levels of investigation appropriate to the results obtained, accompanied by formal reporting of the results at the level achieved. The stages are summarised below (**Table 1**).

Table 1 Staged approach to geoarchaeological investigations

Stage	**Task**
Stage 1: Geoarchaeological desk-based assessment	Review of sub-surface data, generally borehole and/ or test-pit logs generated by geotechnical contractors, and including other available data such as BGS online logs. Aims to establish the likely presence and probable location of any deposits with likely geoarchaeological potential and broadly characterise them. This may be simply in the form of scoping for a WSI, or be reported on as a discrete phase of Stage 1 work. Outline any fieldwork recommended to investigate deposits according to the project aims. The recommended number, location, type and depth of any boreholes, test pits or other works proposed will be specified, although this may be adjusted due to external factors such as service locations. Should no further works be required, a brief Stage 1 report outlining the results of the review will be prepared.
Stage 2: Geoarchaeological field evaluation (sample collection, description & interpretation)	If fieldwork has been agreed at Stage 1, this is carried out now (typically boreholes and/or machine dug test pits supervised by a geoarchaeologist). The Stage 2 report will set out the nature and scope of any Stage 3 (palaeoenvironmental assessment) work which may be recommended to assess the potential of the deposits, and to further characterise and interpret them. If further work is recommended, then the number, type and location of recommended sub-samples will be specified, which may include radiocarbon and/or OSL samples. Should no further works be required, a Stage 2 report outlining the results in the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental context of the local or wider area will be prepared, and will form the final reporting stage unless publication is required.

Stage	Task
Stage 3: Palaeoenvironmental assessment	Sub-sampling and assessment of samples agreed in Stage 2 (for a range of micro- and macro-fossil palaeoenvironmental indicators such as pollen, diatoms, plant macrofossils, molluscs, ostracods and foraminifera as appropriate). Samples for radiocarbon and/or OSL dating may also be submitted at this stage if this has been agreed at Stage 2. The relevant ecofacts will be identified to at least main Taxon, with quality of preservation and approximate quantification. This enables the value of the palaeoenvironmental material surviving within the samples to be assessed. The Stage 3 report will set out the results of each laboratory assessment, and summarise the results and their potential in the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental context of the local or wider area. Recommendations will be made as to whether any Stage 4 work is warranted. If Stage 4 work is recommended, then the number, type and location of sub-samples will be given, along with those for radiocarbon dating. Should no further works be required, the Stage 3 report may form the final reporting stage unless publication is required.
Stage 4: Analysis	Full analysis of samples specified in Stage 3. Typically, Stage 4 will be supported by radiocarbon dating of suitable sub-samples. The Stage 4 report will provide a detailed synthesis of the results, and place them in their local, regional and wider archaeological and palaeoenvironmental context as appropriate. Publication of the results will usually follow from the Stage 4 report.
Final Reporting	The scope and location of the final publication report will be agreed in consultation with the client and LPA advisor. The publication report may comprise a note in a local journal or a larger publication article or monograph, dependant on the significance of the archaeological work.

2 GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2018b). The relevant information is summarized below. Where appropriate this draws on relevant sites and studies outside the development area to inform the assessment of the geoarchaeological and archaeological potential.

2.1.2 Where age estimates are available these are expressed in millions of years (MA), thousands of years (Ka), and within the Holocene epoch as either years Before Present (BP), Before Christ (BC) and Anno Domini (AD).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The Site is situated within a relatively flat area of land at an elevation of approximately 3.00m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Local topography falls gently to the north towards the River Thames and rises sharply to the south.

2.3 Geology

2.3.1 The underlying bedrock geology of the Site has been confirmed within the ground condition assessment report to consist of London Clay Formation (a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 48 to 56 MA during the Palaeogene period) overlying the Lambeth group (a

sedimentary bedrock formed 48 to 59 MA during the Palaeogene period) at depth (CC Ground Investigation ltd 2017).

2.3.2 The superficial deposits mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS online viewer) within the Site belong to the Langley Silt Member. The Site is situated along the southern margins of the mapped extent of the Langley Silt Member; Holocene alluvium, overlying bedrock, is present immediately to the east.

2.4 Geoarchaeological and historical context

2.5 Previous investigations

Site

2.5.1 No record of any previous intrusive archaeological investigation within the Site were noted within the DBA (Wessex Archaeology, 2018).

Study Area

2.5.2 The GLHER contains entries pertaining to a number of archaeological investigations that have been carried out within the Study Area. These comprise of:

- ***WA04**, archaeological evaluation 700m to the north of the Site;*
- ***WA17**, archaeological investigations 740m to the southeast of the Site;*
- ***WA30**, watching brief 895m to the east of the Site;*
- ***WA31**, evaluation 700m to the north of the Site;*
- ***WA34** and **WA25**, two separate watching brief areas located 730m to the north of the Site;*
- ***WA36**, evaluation 610m to the south of the Site;*
- ***WA37**, watching brief 980m to the southeast of the Site;*
- ***WA51**, watching brief 960m to the northeast of the Site;*
- ***WA52**, evaluation 990m to the east of the Site;*
- ***WA58**, evaluation 505m to the northeast of the Site;*
- ***WA59**, evaluation 730m to the northwest of the Site;*
- ***WA60**, watching brief 900m to the northeast of the Site;*
- ***WA61**, watching brief 890m to the northeast of the Site;*
- ***WA62**, watching brief 990m to the southeast of the Site; and*
- ***WA63**, watching brief 790m to the southeast of the Site.*

2.5.3 Previous archaeological investigations carried out within the Study Area are illustrated in **Figure 1**.

Archaeological Priority Areas

2.5.4 There are two Archaeological Priority Areas (APA) within the Study Area; Wandsworth APA and Clapham APA (**Figure 1**). Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) are currently in the process of reviewing the APAs within the Borough of Wandsworth.

Surrounding Area

2.5.5 Situated within 2km of the Battersea Channel Project (a large-scale regeneration scheme for the New Covent Garden Market area which overlies significant archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits associated with the Battersea Channel (a Late Glacial and Early Holocene landform of the river Thames), the Site has potential to contain organic and

alluvial deposits of palaeoenvironmental interest (**Figure 1**, Wessex Archaeology 2015, Payne *et al.* 2018).

2.6 Assessment of geoarchaeological survival and previous impacts

2.6.1 Geotechnical investigations were conducted across the Site in August 2017 comprising two boreholes, four window samples and a single observation pit. Borehole logs and descriptions indicate that made ground deposits were found to be present across the Site that range from 1.20m to 2.10m in depth (CC Ground Investigations Ltd 2017). This is likely to relate to the construction and subsequent demolition of the 19th century terraced housing that occupied the Site.

2.6.2 Underneath the made ground, clay and gravel units were encountered which could reflect Quaternary alluvial/fluvial deposits and/or Head.

2.7 Summary of the possible geoarchaeological potential

2.7.1 Geological mapping and geotechnical borehole data indicated that the site had the potential to preserve three types of deposit, these are:

Langley Silt Member:

- This consist of a complex and poorly understood suite of deposits. The member is polygenetic (Gibbard 1985), being deposited through different processes in different places (aeolian, slope wash etc.). There are also clear indications that it has been deposited in more than one period, having produced Middle Palaeolithic to Mesolithic artefacts.
- Historic artefact collections (much of which was recovered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries) have been well documented by several authors including Roe (1968, 1981), Wymer (1968, 1999) and Jacobi (Wessex Archaeology 2014). These collections including large numbers of artefacts in fresh condition, indicating that they originate from minimally disturbed contexts. However, despite large numbers of artefacts being present in museum collections, most cannot be located to specific find-spots, let alone to secure, specific stratigraphic contexts. Current understanding of their age, associated patterns of early human behaviour and palaeoenvironmental conditions is thus limited.

Head deposits

- Head deposits are defined as poorly sorted cold-climate slope deposits formed through solifluction processes (alternate freeze-thawing) during the Pleistocene.
- Head deposits are not of direct geoarchaeological significance but may contain eroded and redeposited Palaeolithic artefacts and seal underlying stratigraphy in the form of buried former land surfaces containing archaeology and palaeoenvironmental remains.

Holocene alluvium

- Alluvium is a generalised term covering unconsolidated sediment transported by water in a non-marine environment (e.g. rivers). It has also been used as a banner term including other sediment such as peat, but that often occur as distinct bands or discrete features within alluvium. Alluvium will therefore be encountered within both active rivers and floodplains and the fills of former river channels (termed palaeochannels).
- Both floodplain alluvium and palaeochannels are key contexts of the preservation of waterlogged archaeology and palaeoenvironmental remains important for understanding the physical evolution of the landscape and its exploitation by past human communities.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims (or purpose) of the geoarchaeological borehole survey, in compliance with CIfA's Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014a) and *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (Historic England 2015a), are to:

- provide information about the geoarchaeological potential of the assessment area, and
- Inform either the scope and nature of any further geoarchaeological work that may be required or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 To achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the borehole survey are to:

- determine the presence or absence of geoarchaeological deposits, within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the borehole survey, the extent, character and date of any geoarchaeological deposits;
- establish, within the constraints of the borehole survey, the potential of any geoarchaeological deposits to preserve archaeological and/or palaeoenvironmental remains;
- place any identified geoarchaeological remains within a wider historical and geoarchaeological context to assess their significance;
- make available information about the geoarchaeological resource within the Site by reporting on the results of the borehole survey, and;
- make appropriate recommendations for palaeoenvironmental assessment and/or further field evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the geoarchaeological potential of the Site, the site-specific objective of the borehole survey, as identified in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018b), were to:

- investigate whether the Langley Silt Member and Head deposits with Palaeolithic and/or Mesolithic potential are present beneath the Site, and
- model the subsurface deposits beneath the Site

4 FIELDWORK METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018b) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in relevant CIfA and Historic England guidance (CIfA 2014a, Historic England 2015b). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Geoarchaeological borehole survey

Location

4.2.1 A percussive window sampling rig (Terrier type) sampling rig was used to extract sleeved cores at 8 locations (**Figure 2**). Where possible, these were positioned as outlined in the WSI. However, boreholes 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 were repositioned to avoid on-site constraints.

Method

4.2.2 Sleeved cores one metre in length were extracted using a percussive window sampling rig with a windowless sampling barrel. The rig was operated by experienced geotechnical engineers from Ground Technology Services, under the supervision of an experienced member of the Wessex Archaeology geoarchaeological team.

4.2.3 Before drilling commenced, service plans were consulted, and all locations were scanned using a Cable Detection Tool.

4.2.4 Coring proceed until impenetrable deposits or geology was encountered.

4.2.5 Excepting in instances when the first metre contained only very recent made ground, all cores remained sealed and were retained to allow for off-site recording and initial assessment of geoarchaeological potential. Those discarded were opened, recorded and disposed of on site.

4.2.6 On retrieval the cores were sealed and marked with the site code, borehole number and sample depth, before being returned to the Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury for further investigation.

4.2.7 Following drilling, the ‘as dug’ location of boreholes were accurately surveyed through real time kinematic (RTK) survey using a Leica GNSS connected to Leica’s SmartNet service. All survey data was recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

5 POST-EXCAVATION METHODS

5.1 Geoarchaeological description and interpretation

5.1.1 Following fieldwork, cores were split and opened at Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Detailed geoarchaeological descriptions and interpretations were made of each core, with descriptions following the criteria of Hodgson (1997), including the following information:

- Depth
- Texture
- Composition
- Colour
- Inclusions
- Structure
- Contacts between deposits

5.1.2 Interpretations include, where possible, probable depositional environments and formation processes.

5.1.3 The geoarchaeological potential of the deposits encountered were considered and are outlined below.

5.1.4 Cores have been retained for any future laboratory and assessment work.

6 RESULTS

6.1 Stratigraphic evidence

6.1.1 The specific lithologies and stratigraphic succession encountered in each borehole are outlined in **Appendix 1**. The deposits form a consistent sequence across the site reflecting both high energy and low energy alluvial deposition, overlying London Clay bedrock.

6.1.2 The lithological units identified across the assessment area have been grouped into six stratigraphic units and the generalised sequence is described below.

6.1.3 This stratigraphic data was entered in Rockworks 17 to create three borehole transects to illustrate cross sections through the deposits encountered (**Figure 3**).

Phase LC: London Clay

6.1.4 Stiff, well consolidated London Clay bedrock was encountered at the base of the sequence in **BH 3** and **BH 4**.

Phase I: Peat

6.1.5 A slightly clayey peat with frequent visible wood fragments was identified at the base of the sequence within **BH 8** (**Plate 1**). Peat comprises partially decayed organic matter preserved within waterlogged anaerobic (oxygen-free) conditions. Peats are ideal contexts for the preservation of plant micro- and macro-fossils and invertebrate remains that provide key data on past vegetation environments, climate, land-use and the long-term impact of human communities on the landscape.

Phase II: Lower fine grained alluvial deposits

6.1.6 A clay with occasional fine sub-angular flint clasts was encountered directly underlying fluvial sands and gravel in **BH 1** and **BH 8**. This deposit reflects quiescent alluvial deposition within a wet, low-lying area.

Phase III: Sands and gravels

6.1.7 A moderately sorted fine-medium sub-angular flint gravel in a medium-coarse sand matrix was identified within analogous stratigraphic context and at similar evaluations in **BH 1, BH 2, BH 4, BH 6, B7** and **BH 8**. This ranges in thickness from 5-20cm in the western portion of the site and thickens to more than 1.00m at the eastern margins. The deposit reflects a phase of dynamic, higher energy fluvial/alluvial deposition.

Phase IV: Upper alluvial deposits

6.1.8 An extensive sequence of fine grained clay silts and clays is present across the site (**Plate 2**). This is structureless and generally clast free. Occasionally it contains horizons with charcoal fragments and flecks. Within BH 1 units containing think peaty clay-silt horizons were encountered. In BH 4 a unit containing carbonate flecks was observed. The upper units have been truncated by previous development.

Phase MG: Made Ground

6.1.9 The uppermost part of the sequence, found across the evaluation area, consists of made ground comprising demolition rubble and redeposited clay. These deposits are generally 2.50m thick, but extends to approximately 3m thickness in the eastern part of the Site

7 DISCUSSION

7.1.1 The borehole survey has enabled the lithological characteristics of the deposits to be identified, stratigraphic units to be delimited and an initial assessment of geoarchaeological potential to be made.

7.1.2 The sequence encountered across the site reflects alluvial deposits (**Phase I, II, II** and **IV**), underlain by London Clay bedrock (**Phase LC**). This sequence is truncated and overlain by made ground. The alluvial sequence reflects a transition from quiescent alluvial deposition (**Phase I** and **II**) within a wet, low lying area to phase of more dynamic fluvial/alluvial deposition (**Phase III**), with a return to more quiescent alluvial deposition (**Phase IV**).

7.1.3 The sequence is an unmapped extension the alluvial valley fill mapped immediately to the east of the site (BGS on-line viewer). The north-east extent of these have been investigated in area of the US Embassy site, Nine Elms (MOLA 2014) and New Covent Garden, Wandsworth (Wessex Archaeology 2015, Payne *et al.* 2018). Here, sequences associated with rich paleoenvironmental records have been recorded that reflect environmental and landscape change from the early Holocene through to the historic period. The deposits are associated with the Battersea Channel, a Late Glacial and Early Holocene landform of the River Thames.

7.1.4 The palaeoenvironmental and dating potential of fine grained alluvial and the sands and gravel (**Phase II, III** and **IV**) within the Site is low. However, the peat (**Phase** I) encountered at the base of the sequence in **BH 8**, located at the eastern edge of the Site, is an ideal context for the preservation of material for radiocarbon dating, along with plant micro- and macro-fossils and invertebrate remains that provide key data on past vegetation environments, climate, land-use and the long-term impact of human communities on the landscape. The geoarchaeological potential of **Phase II, III** and **IV** deposits are therefore regarded as low, whilst that for the **Phase I** deposits is high.

7.1.5 In the absence of dating evidence, the specific relationship between the alluvial sequence encountered at the Site and those found to the north-east at the US Embassy site (MOLA 2014) and New Covent Garden (Wessex Archaeology 2015, Payne *et al.* 2018) is difficult to ascertain. However, the **Phase I** peat deposits are at a similar elevation to deposits at the US Embassy site that have been dated to the early Holocene (MOLA 2014). An early Holocene date for the **Phase I** deposits at the Site may also indicated by their position at the base of the investigated sequence of alluvial units.

7.1.6 No other Quaternary deposits were identified during the borehole survey. No deposits ascribable to the Langley Silt Member, or identifiable as Pleistocene Head deposits, were encountered. It is possible that such deposits may exist below the alluvial deposits in the eastern portion of the Site. However, such deposits are clearly absent from the western area, as London Clay bedrock was encountered immediately underlying the alluvial sequence.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1.1 A percussive window sampling rig (Terrier type) was used to extract sleeved cores at 8 locations across the Site. The core lengths were retained and recorded off-site. This identified a consistent stratigraphic sequence across the Site consisting of:

- Made ground
- Holocene alluvial deposits
- London Clay bedrock

8.1.2 Although the edge of the Langley Silt Member is mapped as present within the Site, no such deposits were encountered. No Pleistocene Head deposits were encountered.

8.1.3 An extensive Holocene alluvial sequence is present across the site. This is an unmapped extension of the Holocene alluvial deposits mapped immediately to the east of the Site (BGS on-line viewer). These alluvial units are associated with the Battersea Channel. They have been investigated in the area north-east of the Site where they are associated with sedimentary sequences containing extensive palaeoenvironmental and dating datasets that reflect environmental and landscape change from the early Holocene through to the historic period.

8.1.4 The geoarchaeological potential of much of the alluvial sequence encountered in the Site is regarded as low. However, peat identified at the base of the sequence recovered from **BH 8** has high potential. To quantify this geoarchaeological potential and establish research questions associated with these deposits, their age and the range and quantity of paleoenvironmental proxies would need to be assessed.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 Based on the results of the geoarchaeological borehole survey, a series of recommendations are made for further targeted assessment of key deposits with identified geoarchaeological potential.

9.1.2 The selection of samples for palaeoenvironmental assessment is based on the geoarchaeological significance of the recorded units, the presence of organic material (most likely to preserve the widest range of palaeoenvironmental indicators) and the quality of the available samples. Those boreholes and units recommended for assessment are outlined in **Table 2**, with the highest geoarchaeological potential represented by deposits of peat and organic alluvium.

Table 2 Units with potential for palaeoenvironmental assessment.

Depth (mbgl)	Depth (mOD)	Sediment description	Interpretation
Borehole 8			
4.80-+5.00	-1.56- +-1.76	5Y 2.5/1 black clayey peat. Frequent visible wood fragments. Clast free. Structureless. Moderately consolidated.	Fine grained organic alluvial deposits

9.2 Palaeoenvironmental assessment methods

9.2.1 Recommendations for palaeoenvironmental assessment involve a suite of complementary techniques appropriate to the deposit types, including pollen and plant macrofossils supported by radiocarbon dating of suitable material, itemised below in **Table 3**.

9.2.2 Multiple techniques are typically assessed in accordance with Historic England guidelines on good practice in environmental archaeology (English Heritage 2011) and geoarchaeology (Historic England, 2015a), providing a comprehensive understanding of the depositional and environmental context of the sediments.

Table 3 Samples recommended for palaeoenvironmental assessment

Borehole	Pollen	Plant macrofossils	Radiocarbon dating	Diatoms	Forams and ostracods
BH 8	4	2	2	2	2
Total	**4**	**4**	**4**	**2**	**2**

Pollen analysis

9.2.3 Pollen is one of the principal techniques used in environmental archaeology to investigate past vegetation environments and the impact of human communities on the landscape, the latter often evident as distinct phases of woodland clearance or specific land-use strategies (e.g., cereal cultivation, creation of pastures or meadows). Pollen is best preserved in waterlogged organic and oxygen-free sediment, such as peat, where the pollen grains are most representative of the surrounding vegetation at the time of deposition. Marine/riverine sediments are not ideal for pollen assessment as the grains may be transported over long distances or suspended in the water column for significant periods of time.

Plant macrofossils

9.2.4 Plant macrofossils are characterised as large plant remains visible to the naked eye (e.g. seeds, nuts and fruits), providing data on local vegetation conditions, human exploitation of plants and the environment, and providing suitable short-lived material for radiocarbon dating.

Radiocarbon dating

9.2.5 Radiocarbon dating is an established technique used for determining the date of a range of organic materials. AMS (Accelerator Mass Spectrometry) dating of slices of peat, or of short-lived material (seeds, twigs) recovered from the peat, will provide a secure chronological context for these deposits and the palaeoenvironmental assessment recommended on select boreholes. Where thick peats are present AMS dates from the top and base of the peat are recommended, where as one date will suffice for thin and relatively short-lived peats.

Diatoms, foraminifera and ostracods

9.2.6 Diatoms (unicellular algae), foraminifera (marine protozoa) and ostracods (bivalve Crustacea) occur in a wide range of marine and semi-terrestrial environments (e.g. saltmarsh) and provide important comparative indicators on past coastal and riverine change. Assessment of sediments at transitions can help to distinguish evidence for sea-

level, coastal and riverine change, including, the influence of storm/high tide events on semi-terrestrial environments (perhaps visible as fine organic/mineral banding in sediments).

9.3 Research questions

9.3.1 A series of research questions are proposed which will underpin the recommendations for palaeoenvironmental assessment.

9.3.2 Specific research questions include:

- Determine the environments represented by deposits of geoarchaeological potential;
- Reconstruct past landscape and environmental change, including evidence for human activity. Do the deposits of geoarchaeological potential date to the early Holocene? What information does this provide on the environmental context of the early Holocene settlement of the Middle/Lower Thames Valley?, and
- How does the alluvial sequence encountered at the Site relate to those identified to the north at the US Embassy site and at New Covent Garden? Do these deposits all relate to a single 'Battersea Channel', or do they relate to a more geomorphologically complex series of deposits reflecting the Holocene evolution of the River Thames?

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Borehole summaries

The stratigraphic succession encountered in each borehole are outlined below. Heights are given in metres above OD.

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 1		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 2.74 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
0.00-2.15	2.74-0.59			Made ground **– Sharp –**	Made ground	**Made ground**
2.15-3.00	0.59--0.26			GLEY 1 7/1 light greenish grey slightly silty clay. Very frequent orange mottles between 2.15m-2.44m; frequent Mn mottles from 2.44m-2.52m; frequent orange mottles between 2.52m-3.00m. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Not seen –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	**Fine grained alluvial deposits**
3.10-3.15	-0.26--0.31			**Gap**		
3.15-3.50	-0.31--0.66			GLEY 1 6/1 greenish grey clay. Frequent Mn mottles; moderately frequent orange mottles. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
3.50-3.74	-0.66--1.00			GLEY 1 4/1 dark greenish grey clay. Occasional dark reddish brown peaty clay-silt inclusions. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Abrupt –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
3.74-3.80	-1.00--1.06			10YR 2/1 black peaty clay silt with occasional visible plant fragments. Clast free. Structureless. Friable. Poorly consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 1		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 2.74 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
3.80-4.41	-1.06- -1.67			GLEY 1 4/1 dark greenish grey clay. Occasional dark reddish brown peaty clay-silt horizons. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Sharp –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
4.41-4.50	-1.67- -1.76			10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown medium sand. Structureless. Loose **– Sharp –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
4.50-4.56	-1.76- -1.82			GLEY 1 4/1 dark greenish grey clay. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Abrupt –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
4.56-4.79	-1.82- -2.05			Fine-medium sub-angular flint gravel in 10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown medium-coarse sand matrix. Moderately sorted. Structureless. Loose **– Abrupt –**	Fluvial sand and gravel	**Fluvial sands and gravels**
4.79-+5.00	-2.05- + -2.26			GLEY 1 5Y 7/1 light greenish grey clay. Very frequent Mn mottles. Occasional medium-medium-course sub-angular flint clasts. Structureless. Well consolidated	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition.	**Fine grained alluvial deposits**

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 2		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.63 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
0.00-2.20	3.63-1.43			Made ground; including redeposited clay **– Sharp –**	Made ground	**Made ground**

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 2		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.63 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
2.20-2.63	1.43-1.00			GLEY 1 5/1 greenish grey clay. Moderately frequent Mn mottles, becoming very frequent towards base. 2cm orange fine-medium clay sand horizon at base. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Sharp –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	**Fine grained alluvial deposits**
2.63-3.32	1.00-0.31			GLEY 1 5/1 greenish grey clay. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
3.32-3.75	0.20- -0.12			2.5Y 7/6 yellow clay. Very occasional medium -sub-angular flint clasts. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
3.75-4.06	-0.12- -0.43			GLEY 1 6/1 greenish grey clay. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
4.06-4.22	-0.43- -0.59			2.5Y 7/6 yellow clay. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**		
4.22-5.58	-0.59- -1.95			5Y 4/1 dark grey to 5Y 4/2 olive grey clay. Clast free. Frequent charcoal flecks between 4.40m-4.53m. Fine-medium orange sand lense between 4.95m-5.00m. Well consolidated. Softer and wetter with depth **– Sharp –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
5.58-5.63	-1.95- -2.00			Fine-medium sub-angular flint gravel in 10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown medium-coarse sand matrix. Moderately sorted. Structureless. Loose **– Sharp –**	Fluvial sand and gravel	**Fluvial sands and gravels**

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 2		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.63 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
5.63-+6.00	-2.00- +-2.37			5Y 6/2 light olive grey clay. Clast free. Structureless. Very well consolidated	London Clay	**London Clay**

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 3		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.73 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
0.00-2.25	3.73-1.48			Made ground **– Sharp –**	Made ground	**Made ground**
2.25-2.55	1.48-1.18			GLEY 1 7/1 light greenish grey slightly sandy (medium), silty clay. Frequent orange mottles. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	**Fine grained alluvial deposits**
2.55-3.00	1.18-0.73			GLEY 1 6/1 greenish grey to 10YR 7/6 mottled yellow clay. Frequent fine-medium sub-angular flint clasts. Occasional fine-medium rounded Tertiary flint clasts, Moderately frequent charcoal flecks. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Not seen –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
3.00-4.00	0.73- -0.73			**Gap**		
4.00-4.37	-0.73- -0.36			GLEY 1 7/1 light greenish grey slightly sandy (medium), silty clay. Frequent orange mottles. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			Borehole: BH 3		Comments:	
Level (top): 3.73 mOD			Drawing: -			
Depth		Context	Subsamples	Sediment description	Interpretation	
mBGL	mOD					
4.37-4.74	-0.36- -1.01			GLEY 1 6/1 greenish grey to 10YR 7/6 mottled yellow clay. Frequent fine-medium sub-angular flint clasts. Occasional fine-medium rounded Tertiary flint clasts, Moderately frequent charcoal flecks. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Abrupt –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
4.74-+5.00	-1.01- + -1.27			5Y 6/2 light olive grey clay. Clast free. Structureless. Very well consolidated	London Clay	**London Clay**

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			Borehole: BH 4		Comments:	
Level (top): 3.74 mOD			Drawing: -			
Depth		Context	Subsamples	Sediment description	Interpretation	
mBGL	mOD					
0.00-2.07	3.74-1.67			Made ground; including redeposited clay **– Sharp –**	Made ground	**Made ground**
2.07-2.31	1.67-1.44			GLEY 1 7/1 light greenish grey to 10YR 7/6 yellow mottled sandy (fine) clay. Frequent fine-medium sub-angular flint clasts. Very occasional fine-medium sub-angular flint clasts. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	**Fine grained alluvial deposits**
2.31-3.16	1.44-0.58			GLEY 1 7/1 light greenish grey to 10YR 7/6 yellow mottled sandy (fine) clay. Frequent fine-medium sub-angular flint clasts. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 4		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.74 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
3.16-3.80	0.58- -0.06			GLEY 1 7/1 light greenish grey to 10YR 7/6 yellow mottled clay. Frequent fine-medium sub-angular flint clasts. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
3.80-4.00	-0.06- -0.26			GLEY 1 7/1 light greenish grey to 10YR 7/6 yellow mottled clay. Frequent carbonate flecks. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
4.00-4.28	-0.26- -0.54			**Gap**		
4.28-4.56	-0.54- -0.82			GLEY 1 7/1 light greenish grey to 10YR 7/6 yellow mottled clay. Frequent carbonate flecks. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Diffuse –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
4.56-5.00	-0.82- -1.26			GLEY 1 7/1 light greenish grey to 10YR 7/6 yellow mottled clay. Carbonate nodule at 4.72m. Generally, clast free; fine-medium sub-angular flint clasts at 4.88-4.92m. Structureless. Well consolidated	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
5.00-5.41	-1.26- -1.67			**Gap**		
5.41-5.58	-1.67- -1.84			GLEY 1 7/1 light greenish grey to 10YR 7/6 yellow mottled clay. Carbonate nodule at 4.72m. Generally, clast free; fine-medium sub-angular flint clasts at 4.88-4.92m. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Abrupt –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
5.58-5.63	-1.84- -1.79			Fine-medium sub-angular flint gravel in 5YR 4/2 dark greyish brown medium-coarse sand matrix. Moderately sorted. Structureless. Loose **– Sharp –**	Fluvial sand and gravel	**Fluvial sands and gravels**

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 4		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.74 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
5.63-+6.00	-1.74- +-2.26			5Y 6/2 light olive grey clay. Clast free. Structureless. Very well consolidated	London Clay	**London Clay**

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 5		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.29 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
0.00-+1.80	3.29-+1.49			Made ground	Made ground	**Made ground**

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 6		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.80 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
0.00-3.37	3.80-0.43			Made ground **─ Sharp ─**	Made ground	**Made ground**
3.37-4.73	0.43- -0.93			5Y 6/2 light olive grey clay. Moderately frequent Mn mottles. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **─ Diffuse ─**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	**Fine grained alluvial deposits**

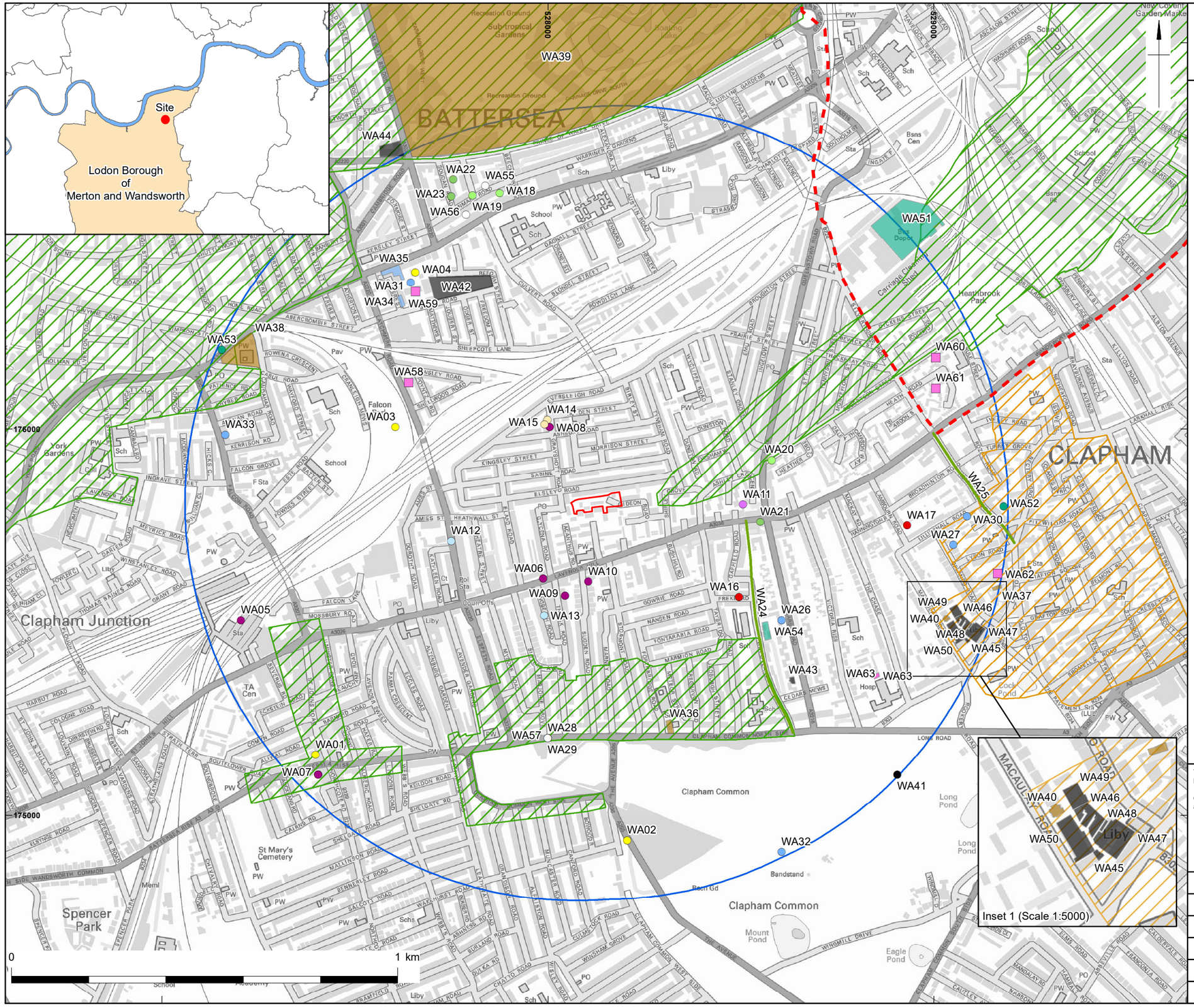
Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 6		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.80 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
4.73-4.93	-0.93- -1.13			GLEY 1 2.5/1 greyish black clay. Clast free. Occasional visible organic plant fragments. Structureless. Moderately consolidated **– Sharp –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
4.93-5.00	-1.13 - 1.20			Fine-medium sub-angular flint gravel in 5YR 4/2 dark greyish brown medium-coarse clay sand matrix. Moderately sorted. Structureless. Loose **– Sharp –**	Fluvial sand and gravel	**Fluvial sands and gravels**
5.00-5.78	-1.20- -1.98			**Gap**		
5.78-+6.00	-1.98- + -2.20			Fine-medium sub-angular flint gravel in 5YR 4/2 dark greyish brown medium-coarse sand matrix. Moderately sorted. Structureless. Loose	Fluvial sand and gravel	

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 7		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.54 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
0.00-2.64	3.54-0.90			Made ground **– Sharp –**	Made ground	**Made ground**
2.64-3.00	0.90-0.54			GLEY 1 5/1 greenish grey clay. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	**Fine grained alluvial deposits**
3.00-3.78	0.54- -0.24			**Gap**		
3.78-4.00	-0.24- -0.46			GLEY 1 5/1 greenish grey clay. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
4.00-4.68	-0.46- -1.14			**Gap**		

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 7		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.54 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
4.68-4.90	-1.14- -1.36			GLEY 1 5/1 greenish grey clay. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Sharp –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	
4.90-+5.00	-1.36- +-1.46			Fine-medium sub-angular flint gravel in 5YR 4/2 dark greyish brown medium-coarse sand matrix. Moderately sorted. Structureless. Loose	Fluvial sand and gravel	**Fluvial sands and gravels**

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 8		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.24 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
0.00-2.86	3.24-0.38			Made ground **– Sharp –**	Made ground	**Made ground**
2.86-3.57	0.38- -0.33			GLEY 1 3/1 very dark greenish grey clay. Very frequent Mn mottles. Clast free. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Sharp –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition	**Fine grained alluvial deposits**
3.57-4.00	-0.33- -0.76			Fine-coarse sub-angular flint gravel in 5YR 4/2 dark greyish brown medium-coarse sand matrix. Frequent medium rounded Tertiary flint clasts. Moderately sorted. Structureless. Loose.	Fluvial sand and gravel	**Fluvial sands and gravels**
4.00-4.22	-0.76 - 0.98			**Gap**		

Location: 205210 Gideon Road, Wandsworth			**Borehole:** BH 8		**Comments:**	
Level (top): 3.24 mOD			**Drawing:** -			
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
mBGL	mOD					
4.22-4.73	-0.98- -1.49			Fine-coarse sub-angular flint gravel in 5YR 4/2 dark greyish brown medium-coarse sand matrix. Frequent medium rounded Tertiary flint clasts. Moderately sorted. Structureless. Loose. **– Abrupt –**	Fluvial sand and gravel	
4.73-4.80	-1.49- -1.56			GLEY 1 5/1 greenish grey clay. Occasional fine sub-angular flint clasts. Structureless. Well consolidated **– Abrupt –**	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition; marshland	**Fine grained alluvial deposits**
4.80-+5.00	-1.56- + -1.76			5Y 2.5/1 black slightly clayey peat. Frequent visible wood fragments. Clast free. Structureless. Moderately consolidated.	Fine grained alluvial deposits; quiescent deposition; marshland	**Peat**



- Site

Archaeology

- Prehistoric
- Palaeolithic
- Mesolithic
- Neolithic
- Bronze Age
- Romano-British
- Anglo-Saxon
- Medieval
- Post-medieval
- Modern
- Undated
- Multi-period
- Negative
- Medieval
- Post-medieval
- 19th century
- Modern
- Multi-period
- Negative
- Clapham APA
- Wandsworth APA
- Study Area (1km)
- Battersea Channe Project Area

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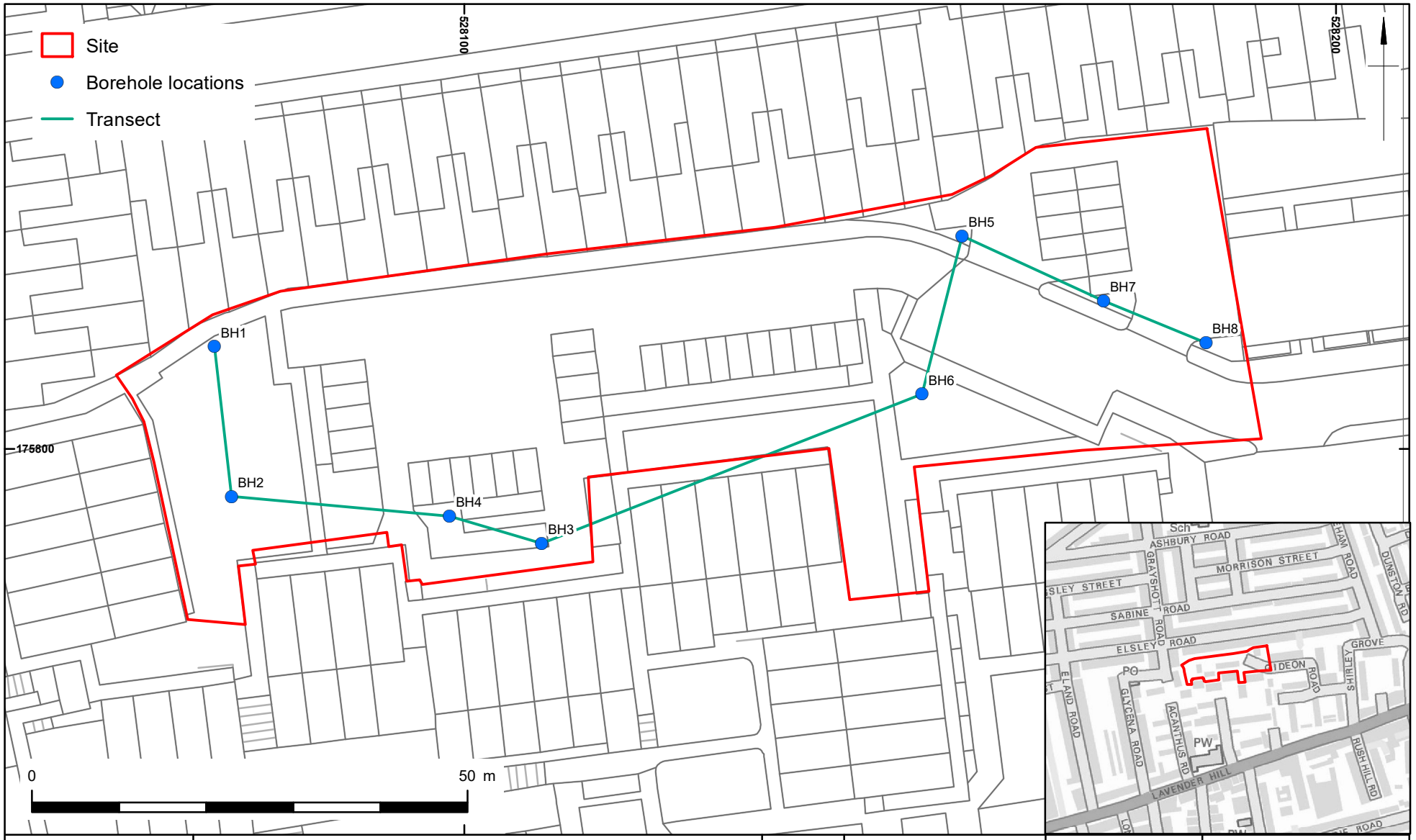
Site Location plan showing; Archaeological Priority Areas, Archaeological Records based on GLHER and proximity to the Battersea Channel Project

Figure 1



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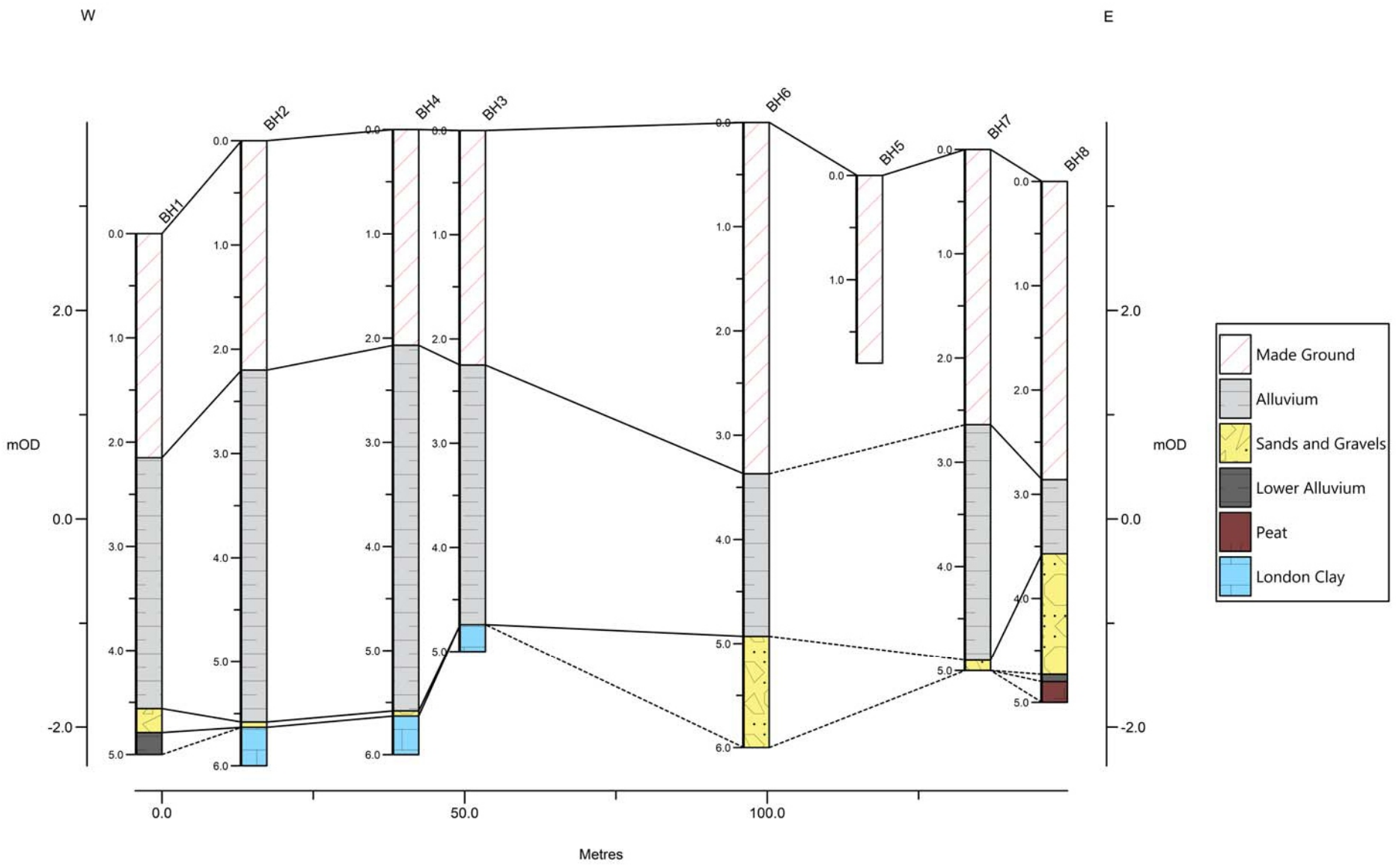
Proposed borehole locations

Figure 2



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Projected west-east cross section through deposits

Figure 3

Plate 1: Peat within Borehole 8; 4.80-5.00m below ground level

Plate 2: Borehole 4; 2.00-6.00m below ground level

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