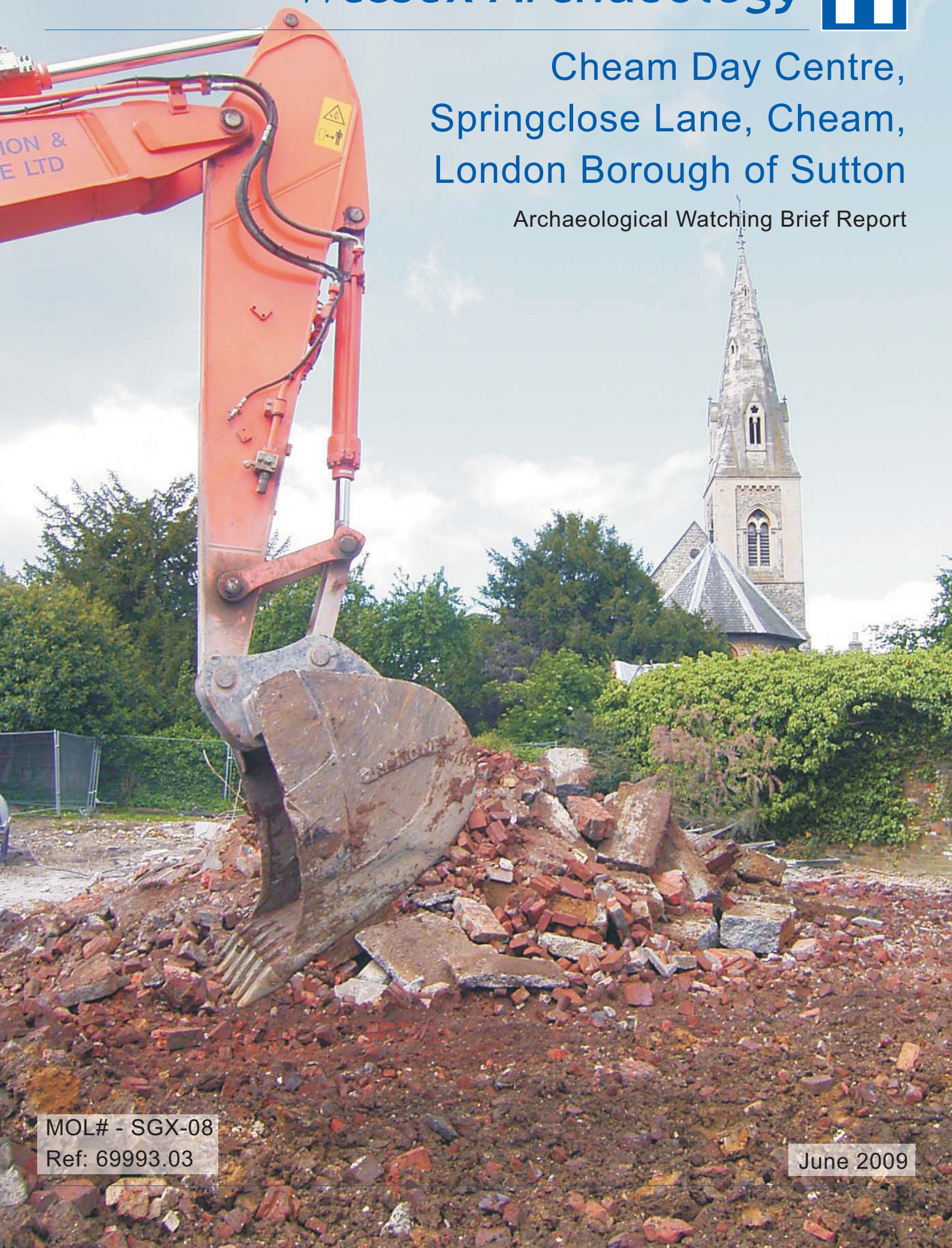




Cheam Day Centre, Springclose Lane, Cheam, London Borough of Sutton

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



MOL# - SGX-08
Ref: 69993.03

June 2009



**Cheam Day Centre,
Springclose Lane,
Cheam,
SM3 8PU
London Borough of Sutton**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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**Cheam Day Centre,
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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Plate 3 – Phase 2 watching brief viewed from the east

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Cheam Day Centre, London Borough of Sutton

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by George H Austin (Builders) Ltd on behalf of the Raven Housing Trust (the Client) to undertake, an archaeological watching brief at the former Day Care Centre, Springclose Lane, London Borough of Sutton.

The watching brief was requested by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) as mitigation attached as a planning condition to planning consent. The Condition followed the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at the Site by Wessex Archaeology in December 2008 (WA 2008). The archaeological evaluation (WA 2008b) found no evidence for the presence of a Saxon Church or the presence of burials associated with either the Saxon or later post-medieval church within the Site area. The evaluation did locate some features of post-medieval and unknown date.

The Watching Brief was undertaken on the 21st May (Phase 1) and 29th May 2009 (Phase 2). Phase 1 comprised the archaeological monitoring of the grubbing out of the existing foundations of the former day Care Centre following its demolition. Phase 2 was located to the west of the Care Centre. The watching brief in this area covered the removal of the hard standing and the cutting of foundations for Unit 4. During both phases of the watching brief no archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

**Cheam Day Centre,
London Borough of Sutton**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology wished to thank Russell Carr of George H Austin (Builders) Ltd for commissioning the watching brief. Thanks are also due to Martin Potter of Wessex Demolition for the on site liaison and cooperation. Wessex Archaeology also wishes to thank Diane Walls of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service for her help and advice during the watching brief.

The watching brief was undertaken on the 21st and 29th May by Jon Smith and Jon Martin respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Liz James and the report was compiled and the project managed for Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa.

Cheam Day Centre, London Borough of Sutton

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by George H Austin (Builders) Ltd on behalf of the Raven Housing Trust (the Client) to undertake, an archaeological watching brief at the former Day Care Centre, Springclose Lane, Cheam in the London Borough of Sutton (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was requested by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) as mitigation attached as a planning condition to planning consent. The Condition followed the results of the previous archaeological evaluation undertaken at the Site by Wessex Archaeology in December 2008 (WA 2008))
- 1.1.3 The Site is located in an Archaeological Priority Area of the historic settlement of Cheam. St Dunstan's church located to the west is thought to be sited over or near to a Saxon church the associated cemetery of which may extend into the Site.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation (WA 2008b) found no evidence for the presence of a Saxon Church or the presence of burials associated with either the Saxon or later post-medieval church within the Site area. The evaluation did locate some features of post-medieval and unknown date.
- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2009) setting out the manner in which Wessex Archaeology would implement the archaeological watching brief was submitted to the Client and to GLAAS for approval prior to the commencement of the watching brief programme.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Site location, description and topography

- 2.1.1 The Site, centred on NGR 524350 163924, is bordered to the south by Church Farm Lane, to the east and north by existing developments, and to the west by St Dunstan's cemetery.
- 2.1.2 The Site lies at a height of approximately 58m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.1.3 The underlying geology within the Site has been identified as Clay, part of the Lambeth Group, overlying Thanet Sands laid down during the Palaeogene Era (British Geographical Survey Sheet 270, 1998). These

deposits were observed during the recent archaeological evaluation and geotechnical test pitting.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A desk based archaeological assessment was undertaken of the Site on behalf of the client by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2008a,). The results of the assessment are summarised below.
- 3.1.2 An archaeological evaluation of the Site was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in December 2008 (Wessex Archaeology 2008b, 69991).
- 3.1.3 A geotechnical investigation was undertaken by Tweedie Evans Consulting in December 2008 (Project Reference 0808001)

3.2 Cultural Heritage

- 3.2.1 Following the issuing of the Archaeological Evaluation Report and on-site discussions with Dianne Walls, English Heritage, GLAAS, during monitoring of the previous project, it was determined that a watching brief would be required during demolition of the existing building and the construction of Unit 4.
- 3.2.2 Although a deposit of residual prehistoric material, dating to the Neolithic was found 160m to the south of the Site no material of this date was retrieved during the recent evaluation.
- 3.2.3 A single Roman coin was found in the adjacent graveyard in 1949, however no material of this date was found during the recent evaluation.
- 3.2.4 A church is recorded, on the Site of St Dunstan's, as being founded in the 6th Century AD, a church, the remnants of which exist to the west of the site is also recorded in the Domesday Book (dated 1086). Although raised as a possibility prior to the evaluation no evidence was found for structural remains or a more extensive graveyard belonging to these periods was found on the Site.
- 3.2.5 Previous archaeological investigations along Cheam High Street located to the south of the Site recorded significant medieval remains relating to the Surrey pottery industry dating to the 13th and 15th centuries. The recent evaluation recorded no evidence for activity during this period although two sherds of early medieval coarse ware dating to the eleventh and twelfth centuries were retrieved during the Site investigation.
- 3.2.6 During the evaluation (WA 2008b) a large pit was recorded, dating to the post-medieval period. The pit was filled with building debris which has been interpreted as either rubble from the demolition of a nearby building or debris from the replacement of a roof on a nearby building.

4 AIMS

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

4.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were to:

- To identify the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving archaeological remains found either during the grubbing out of the existing foundations or through the excavation of the footings for Unit 4.
- To determine whether elements of the cemeteries that would have been associated with either the Saxon or Norman church extend into the Site and were not detected during the evaluation
- To determine whether any archaeological structures or deposits relating to the early medieval coarse ware pottery retrieved during the previous evaluation are present on the site
- To determine whether undated features of unknown function found during the evaluation can be interpreted more fully and to determine whether a structure is present that relates to the large dump deposit found in Post-medieval pit **111** identified in the evaluation.
- To produce a report presenting the project in sufficient detail to allow interpretation of the results without recourse to the project archive.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The site code for the project and resultant archive obtained from the Museum of London for the evaluation was retained for the watching brief (SGX08).

5.1.2 All work was undertaken in accordance with the guidance given in the Institute for Field Archaeologist's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008)

5.1.3 A suitably experienced archaeologist was present during all groundworks on the Site designated to be monitored by the watching brief.

5.1.4 All machine excavation was undertaken by a tracked machine excavator operated by the groundwork contractor.

5.1.5 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, supported by a photographic record. Areas under archaeological observation were surveyed using GPS survey equipment and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

5.2 Fieldwork programme

5.2.1 The Watching Brief was undertaken on the 21st May (Phase 1) and 29th May 2009 (Phase 2).

5.2.2 Phase 1 comprised the archaeological monitoring of the grubbing out of the existing foundations of the former Day Care Centre following its demolition (**Figure 1**).

5.2.3 Phase 2 was located to the west of the Care Centre. The watching brief in this area covered the removal of the hard standing and the cutting of foundations for Unit 4 (**Figure 1**).

5.3 Results

5.3.1 Both phases of the watching brief failed to identify any surviving archaeological features or deposits. A representative section (**Plate 1**) recorded during the course of Phase 1 identified a mixed topsoil/overburden (**008**) with brick inclusions and rubble up to 35cm thick. This deposit was observed to be present across the majority of the Site. This overlay a dump layer (**009**) up to 25cm in depth comprised of a dark brown silty clay with frequent chalk fragments. Underlying this deposit was a mid to dark brown sterile silty clay (**010**) up to 50cm thick. This overlay the natural (at 50.12m aOD) comprised of a reddish brown silty clay (**011**) with very occasional small pebbles. A second representative section (**Plate 2**) also revealed topsoil and a dump layer with the natural reddish brown silty clay being present at a depth of 0.70m (58.15m aOD).

5.3.2 During Phase 2 of the watching brief to monitor the foundations for Unit 4 (**Plate 3**), the modern topsoil and overburden was reduced by up to 50cm to create a formation level for the cutting of the foundation trenches. The trenches (**Plate 3**) were excavated to a depth of 1.10m below the formation level with the natural clay being revealed at a height of 50.15m aOD.

6 FINDS

6.1.1 No artefacts suitable for retention were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the watching brief.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the watching brief. The watching brief confirmed the evaluation results (WA 2008b) in showing that there is no evidence for a cemetery extending into the Site that would have been associated with either the Saxon or Norman church. No evidence of deposits or features dating to the medieval period were identified or any structure, which could be associated with Post-medieval pit **111**.

8.1.2 The watching brief confirmed the results of the previous evaluation undertaken at the Site in showing that the construction of the development will have had no impact on anything of archaeological significance.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 9.1.1 The complete project archive comprises an A4 ring bound folder comprising context record sheets, photographic register, Risk Assessment and various background documentation. There is an accompanying archive of photographs in colour digital format. The entire archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology where they are held under the Museum of London Site Code SGX08 and Wessex Archaeology project code 69990-69993. The completed archive will be deposited with The Museum of London under Site Code SGX 08.

9.2 Copyright

- 9.2.1 Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. Excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.

9.3 Security Copy

- 9.3.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

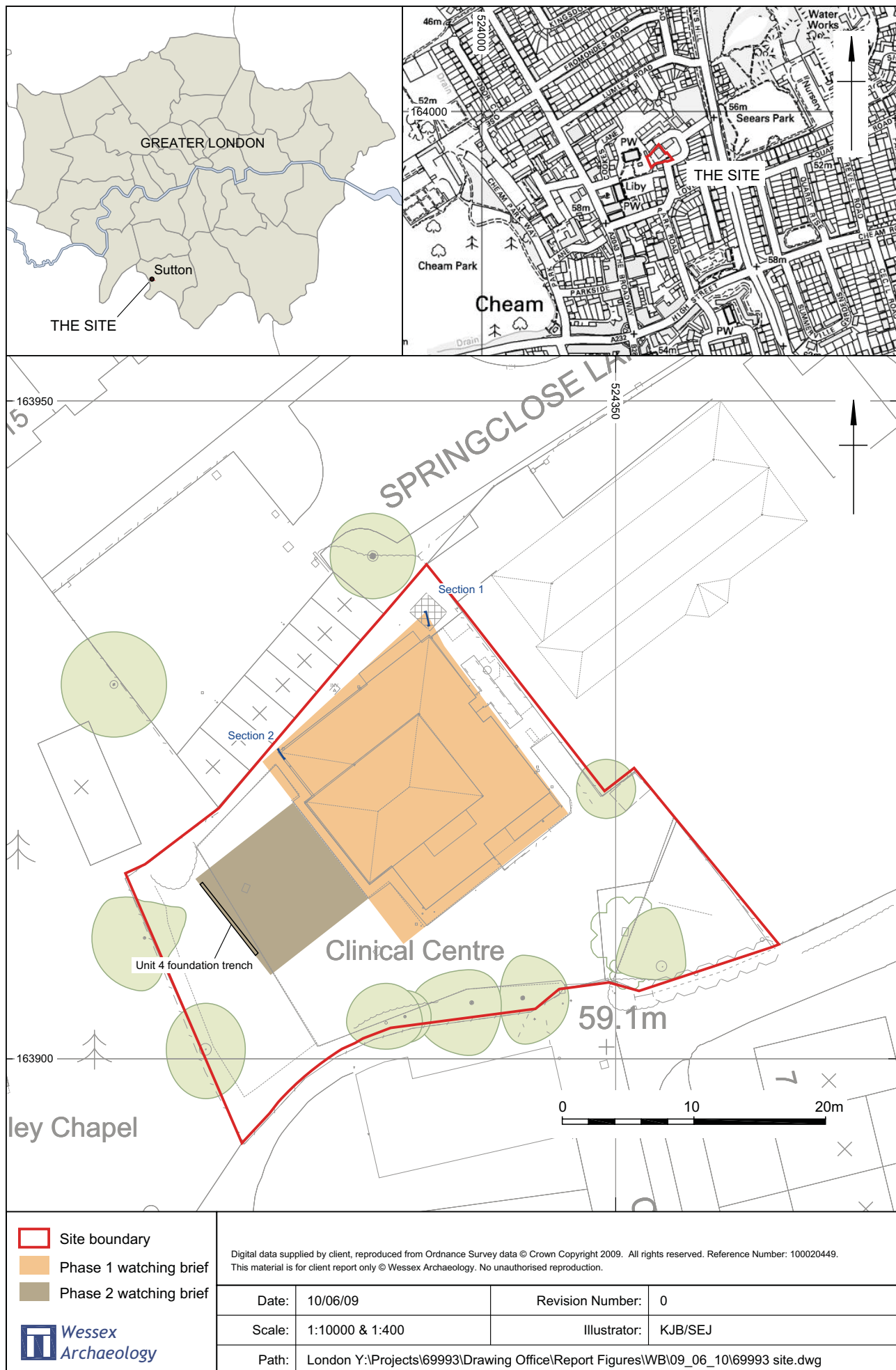
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Site and watching brief location

Figure 1



Plate 1: Section 1 viewed from the south-west



Plate 2: Section 2 viewed from the north-east



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Plate 3: Phase 2 watching brief viewed from the east



Plate 4: Unit 4 foundation trench viewed from the south-east

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