



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

### Archaeological Evaluation Report





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**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Turner and Townsend on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to undertake, an archaeological field evaluation at the Holland Park School. The work is in support of the proposals to redevelop the Site, which will see the building of a new school on its current location. The southern part of the present school is to be developed separately for residential purposes. This report relates solely to the northern part of the school as access to the southern area is not currently possible.

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 occupied by residential housing and apartment blocks. The Site is bounded by Holland Park to the west, a tennis club to the north, residential buildings to the east and Sheldrake Place and King's College to the South.

The Site lies at a height of approximately 35m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north and 32.5m aOD in the south. The original slope within the Site has been reprofiled into two to three terraced platforms separated by small retaining walls up to 1.5m high. The underlying geology within the Site has been identified as Thames river terrace gravel deposits overlying London Clay.

Trenches 1 to 4 were located at the northern end of the Site where the natural Thames Terrace substrata of mid orange brown coarse sand was revealed in trenches 1, 2 and 3 at a depth of 0.80m (33.70m aOD). In trench 1 this was cut by a post-medieval or modern gully and a modern brick structure. The natural substrata was overlain by a series of made ground deposits whilst the made-ground deposits in trench 4, in the north-west of the site were excavated to a depth of 1.20m but were not bottomed. Trenches 5-8 were located in the southern end of the Site, immediately to the north of Camden Hill. Trench 8, in the south-west of the Site encountered deep made-ground deposits, in excess of 1.20m thick, but did not reach the natural substrata. In Trenches 5, 6 and 7 a probable buried soil deposit, in which modern whiteware pottery was noted, surviving below the approximately 0.50m thick modern overburden. These buried soil deposits directly overlay a number of archaeological features of Middle-Late Iron Age and Romano-British date cut into the natural sand and gravel Thames Terrace sub-strata at a height of 32.50m aOD.

A single sherd of Neolithic pottery recovered from a modern feature in the north of the site indicates activity of this date in the general area, but no features or deposits of this date were located. The probable Iron Age features comprised two sub-circular pits and the Romano-British features comprised two ditches and a sub-rectangular pit. Two undated post-holes and an undated gully were also recorded in trench 5. Three sherds of Early-Middle Saxon pottery were recovered from the fills of the two Romano-British ditches where they were thought to be intrusive; however, they do suggest Saxon activity in the area.

The area of high archaeological potential identified in the south of the Site contains important archaeological features and deposits of Iron Age, Romano-British and potentially Saxon date. This area will be below a contractor's compound during the proposed demolition and construction phases of the project and below games courts following the completion of the building work. Any areas of intrusive groundworks associated with the construction of the contractor's compound or games courts should be subject to further archaeological investigation, the scope of which would reflect the size and nature of the proposed groundworks.

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**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Turner and Townsend for commissioning the project on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea; in particular the assistance of Lauren Mountford of Turner and Townsend is gratefully acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa. The fieldwork was directed by Vaughan Birbeck assisted by Ben Cullen. This report was compiled by Vaughan Birbeck with the assistance of Lorraine Mephram (finds) and Chris Stevens (palaeoenvironmental evidence). The samples were processed by Marta Perez-Fernandez and the illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer.

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## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

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, an archaeological field evaluation at the Holland Park School (hereafter 'the Site'). The work is in support of the proposals to redevelop the Site, which will see the building of a new school on its current location. The southern part of the present school is to be developed separately for residential purposes. This report relates solely to the archaeological evaluation of the northern part of the school. Archaeological work could not be carried out within the southern area of the Site as suitable access is not currently available.

1.1.2 Previous geotechnical investigation of the Site was undertaken in 2006 (Buro Happold 2006). The work was carried out in order to assess and verify the ground conditions in order to help develop strategies for the design of building foundations, basements and general Site earthworks. Further geotechnical investigations were undertaken in May 2009 by Buro Happold and monitored by Wessex Archaeology. This further work was required in order to determine existing structural foundations and buried services across the Site that may affect the proposed design and associated enabling works for the development.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2009) setting out the manner in which Wessex Archaeology would undertake the evaluation was submitted to and approved by the Client and GLAAS (the archaeological advisor acting on behalf of RBKC) for approval prior to the commencement of the fieldwork programme.

#### 1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 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 occupied by residential housing and apartment blocks. The Site is bounded by Holland Park to the west, a tennis club to the north, residential buildings to the east and Shel Drake Place and King's College to the South (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site is sub-rectangular in shape, approximately 190m x 150m, occupying an area of c.28,500m<sup>2</sup>. The Site is in active use as a school comprising buildings, hard standing playground areas and a wooded garden area on its eastern side.



- 1.2.3 The Site lies at a height of approximately 35m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north and 32.5m aOD in the south. The original slope within the Site has been reprofiled into two to three terraced platforms separated by small retaining walls up to 1.5m high.
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology within the Site has been identified as Thames river terrace gravel deposits overlying London Clay (British Geographical Survey Sheet 270, 1998). These deposits were observed during the geotechnical investigations undertaken in 2006 (Buro Happold 2006).

### 1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 The Site lies in close proximity to an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined within the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Unitary Development Plan. This Zone reflects the location of Roman roads and Roman cemetery evidence in the area. The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) contains 31 records of archaeological importance within a 500m radius of the Site (the Study Area). As these often comprise multiple records for a single location these have been reduced to seven sites/findspots (**WA1-WA7**); these are described in **Appendix 1** and illustrated on **Figure 1**.
- 1.3.2 The earliest evidence of human activity recorded by the GLSMR within the Study Area comprises the findspot of a Palaeolithic (500,000-10,000 BC) flint knife and waste flake (**WA1**) approximately 400m to the southwest of the Site. Although the GLSMR does not detail the circumstances of the finds, they were presumably recovered from the underlying Thames Terrace deposits.
- 1.3.3 Approximately 280m to the south-east of the Site the GLSMR records an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation at The Philimores (**WA2**); this located the remains of a possible Bronze Age (2,400-700 BC) burnt mound along with a series of post-holes, probably representing a structure, and associated pits which were assumed to be of broadly contemporary date. This is a little earlier than a concentrated area of prehistoric and later activity cut into river terrace gravels recorded by an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation at the Sir John Atkins Building (**WA3**), some 180m to the south-east of the Site, but both suggest a continuity of occupation from the Late Bronze Age into the Early Iron Age. The evaluation at the Sir John Atkins Building (**WA3**) 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 (**WA2**). The more comprehensive pottery sample provided by the open area excavation at **WA3** 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 feature were a series of postholes and sub-circular pits that were also recorded. Pottery recovered from these features date to the Early Iron Age.
- 1.3.4 The Late Iron Age (100 BC-AD 43) period was also represented at **WA3** 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, utilising the slope of the hill.

- 1.3.5 Two ditches and a pit dated to the Romano-British (AD 43-410) period were recorded at the Sir John Atkin Building. One ditch appears to have been a later re-cut of the Late Iron Age boundary ditch. 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.
- 1.3.6 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 located at Notting Hill in 1841, in Victoria Park to the northeast of Site. Remains included stone and wooden coffins, together with bone and/or ivory pins. Within the Study Area the GLSMR also records the suggested site of a beacon (**WA4**) associated with the Roman road.
- 1.3.7 The GLSMR records documentary and earthwork evidence for the presence of a medieval (AD 1066-1499) manor house and a moat (**WA5**) 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.
- 1.3.8 The Holland Park area was rural agricultural land until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most of it was formerly the grounds of a Jacobean mansion called Cope Castle, built for Sir William Cope in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, parts of the gardens of which survive (**WA6**). It was renamed Holland House after passing to Lady Rich, whose husband was the Earl of Holland. In the later decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 (**WA7**) that survived between 19<sup>th</sup> century cellars and was recorded during an archaeological watching brief approximately 420m to the west of the Site.
- 1.3.9 Holland Park School was built in 1958 as London's first ever purpose-built comprehensive school. The proposed new development is for the school to be rebuilt on the current Site.

## 1.4 Geotechnical Investigations

- 1.4.1 Geotechnical investigation of the Site was undertaken in 2006 (Buro Happold 2006). The work was carried out in order to assess and verify the ground conditions in order to help develop strategies for the design of building foundations, basements and general Site earthworks. Further

geotechnical investigations were undertaken in May 2009 by Buro Happold (ASA 2009) and monitored by Wessex Archaeology. This further work was required in order to determine existing structural foundations and buried services across the Site that may affect the proposed design and associated enabling works for the development. The work was monitored by Wessex Archaeology in order to assess the ground conditions and aid in establishing the location of the proposed archaeological evaluation trenches.

1.4.2 The investigations undertaken in 2006 and 2009 confirmed that the geological/soil sequence underlying the Site generally comprises.

- Made Ground
- River Terrace Deposits
- London Clay

1.4.3 The thickness and distribution of the made ground and river terrace deposits was variable. The investigations revealed that up to 0.50m of made ground overlie the river terrace deposits at the northern and central parts of the Site. At the southern end of the Site, which is located on the lowest terrace, up to 1.50m of made ground was recorded. On the western part of the Site made ground up to 1.50m deep was recorded overlying the River Terrace Deposits. On the eastern part of the Site, which lies outside of the proposed evaluation area (no proposed new building work) made ground was demonstrated to be up to 3.5m in depth. The River Terrace Deposits were shown to be generally between 2m to 2.5m in depth and the investigations were able to demonstrate the natural slope of the Site, which falls from 35m aOD in the north to 30m aOD in the south. The made ground had been used during the building of the current school in the 1950s, to reprofile the Site into two to three terraced platforms separated by small retaining walls up to 1.5m high.

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 General**

2.1.1 The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to record as far as reasonably possible the location, date, nature, extent, relationships and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by the proposed development.

### **2.2 Specific**

2.2.1 The aims of the evaluation 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 evaluation, 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.
- clarify the results of the geotechnical investigations in order to establish the nature and depth of made ground across the Site to the top of the River Terrace Deposits and/or London Clay (whichever is encountered first)
- establish whether archaeological features and or deposits are present within what has been defined as made ground.
- Inform the design of a strategy to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains where present.

### 3 METHODS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The Museum of London Site Code **HDK09** was obtained prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.

3.1.2 All work was undertaken in accordance with the GLAAS Archaeological Guidance Papers (GLAAS 1999) and with the standards and guidelines as set out in The Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken from the 17<sup>th</sup> August to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009.

3.1.4 The evaluation comprised the excavation of eight machine excavated trenches in the available areas of the Site (**Figure 2**).

#### 3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. Where trenches were located in areas of hardstanding a breaker was employed to remove such surfaces. Mechanical excavation continued in spits through the overburden down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or top of natural deposits, whatever was encountered first.

3.2.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered their investigation continued by hand. A sufficient sample of each layer/feature type was excavated in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains.

3.2.3 Where possible a sondage/s was excavated through the river terrace deposits (gravels) in order to further clarify the sequence and/or to recover Palaeolithic artefacts, but only where this did not compromise significant archaeology which may have to be preserved *in situ* or compromise Health and Safety issues.

#### 3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 Archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. Deposits and features were planned at an appropriate scale of 1:20 on drawing film. Sections were drawn at 1:10 on drawing film and include existing ground surface and overburden where appropriate in order to provide a full record and deposit column information. An overall Site plan and Harris matrix of stratigraphic information has been prepared.
- 3.3.2 The photographic record comprises monochrome negative, colour slide and digital images.
- 3.3.3 All interventions were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid, and all archaeological features were related to Ordnance Survey Datum. This will allow for the subsequent comparison of foundation proposals and archaeological remains and thereby contribute to meeting the aims of the evaluation.
- 3.3.4 Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation* (revised 2008), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines "Conservation Guideline No 2" and the Museums and Galleries Commissions "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1991)".
- 3.3.5 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date.
- 3.3.6 All retained artefacts have, as a minimum, been washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998).
- 3.3.7 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro fossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts were taken from two appropriate archaeological contexts.
- 3.3.8 Bulk environmental soil samples were processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits, but have not been fully analysed. The residues and sieved fractions will be retained with the project archive.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A summary list of trench descriptions briefly describing the features and deposits recorded during the evaluation is provided in **Appendix 2**, more detailed descriptions are contained within the project archive. **Figure 2** shows the location of the trenches and the principal features recorded. More detailed plans of Trenches 5, 6 and 7 are shown on **Figure 3**.
- 4.1.2 Trenches 1 to 4 were located at the northern end of the Site (**Figure 2**) where the natural Thames Terrace substrata of mid orange brown coarse sand was revealed in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 at a depth of 0.80m (33.70m

aOD). In Trench 1 this was cut by a post-medieval or modern gully and a modern brick structure. The natural substrata was overlain by a series of made ground deposits. The made-ground deposits in Trench 4, in the north-west of the site (**Figure 2**) were excavated to a depth of 1.20m but were not bottomed.

- 4.1.3 Trenches 5 - 8 were located in the southern end of the Site, immediately to the north of Camden Hill (**Figures 2 and 3**). Trench 8, in the south-west of the Site (**Figure 2**) revealed deep made-ground deposits, in excess of 1.20m thick, but did not reach the natural substrata. A single sherd of Romano-British greyware pottery was recovered from the made-ground deposit along with modern refined whiteware pottery and post-medieval tile fragments. In Trenches 5, 6 and 7 a probable buried soil deposit, in which modern whiteware pottery was noted, was recorded below the approximately 0.50m thick modern overburden. These buried soil deposits directly overlay a number of features of later prehistoric and Romano-British date cut into the natural sand and gravel Thames Terrace sub-strata at a height of 32.50m aOD.
- 4.1.4 All features were, to some extent, disturbed by root action and the loose, sandy nature of both the fills of the features and the overlying buried soil deposit means that later materials may have become incorporated into the fills of some of the features. This appears to be confirmed by the environmental evidence.

## 4.2 Prehistoric

- 4.2.1 The earliest traces of human activity located by the evaluation comprised a single abraded sherd of coarse flint tempered pottery. This has been identified as probably belonging to the Middle/Late Neolithic (4,000-2,400 BC) Peterborough ware ceramic tradition, although sub-style is uncertain. Although this was recovered from the fill of a post-medieval or modern gully in trench 1, along with a clay pipe stem, it suggests Neolithic activity in the general area of the Site.
- 4.2.2 Nine sherds of Middle – Late Iron Age (400-BC-43 AD) pottery were recovered from the fills of features in Trenches 5, 6 and 7. The sherds from the fill (**504**) of ditch **503** in Trench 5 (**Plate 1**) and from the fills of pit **603** (**604**) and ditch **606** (**607**) in Trench 6 (**Plate 3**) are likely to be residual as Romano-British and later materials were also recovered from these. Two sherds of Middle-Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from the single dark greyish brown silty loam fill (**705**) of pit **704** (**Plate 4**), which was 1.30m in diameter and 0.52m deep with moderately steep, concave sides and a concave base. No later materials were recovered from this feature and it is therefore assumed to be of Iron Age date. Although no datable material was recovered from the fill (**707**) of pit **706** (**Plate 4**) in the same trench, the similarity in form and size of these two features could suggest that they are broadly contemporary. It is also possible that some of the undated features in Trench 5 may also be of Iron Age date.

## 4.3 Romano-British

- 4.3.1 Although only Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill of pit **603** (**Plate 2**) in Trench 6 the presence in the same context of a small fragment of

imported lava quernstone, which is unlikely to be earlier than Romano-British, suggests a Romano-British or later date for this feature. This was a sub-rectangular pit, approximately 1.60m long, 1.30m wide and 0.50m deep with near vertical sides and a fairly flat base filled with a single mid greyish brown sandy clay fill (**604**), which was also sampled for charcoal and plant macrofossils (sample 1). However, no charred plant remains were recovered, although small amounts of charcoal though were present along with a few fragments of round wood.

- 4.3.2 The dating of the two ditches from which datable materials were recovered, ditch **503** (fill **504**) in Trench 5 and ditch **606** (fill **607**) in Trench 6 is somewhat problematic as pottery of Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon date was recovered from the fills of both ditches. Analysis of the environmental sample taken from the fill of ditch **503** indicated that there was probably intrusive material present; however, as the majority of larger sherds recovered from both features were of Romano-British date, it is assumed that both are of this date. Ditch **503** was aligned approximately north-south and was over 2m wide (continuing beyond the eastern end of the trench) and 0.40m deep with a steeply sloping, straight western side and a fairly flat base and was filled with a single mid-dark greyish brown sandy clay loam fill with abundant gravel inclusions. Ditch **606**, in the western end of Trench 6 was 1.35m wide and 0.30m deep with steeply sloping concave sides and an irregular base and was filled with a single greyish brown sandy clay fill. It is possible that the undated gully and post-holes recorded in Trench 5 may also be of Romano-British date.

#### 4.4 Saxon and Later

- 4.4.1 Although three sherds of Early–Mid Saxon pottery were recovered from the fills of ditches **503** and **606** it is possible that these were intrusive in Romano-British features; possible brought in by root action. However this should be viewed with caution as a Saxon date for these features is also possible. The presence of Saxon pottery does, however, indicate Saxon activity in the general area of the Site.
- 4.4.2 In Trench 1 in the north of the Site a north to south aligned shallow irregular linear feature (**108**), which was 0.30m wide and 0.25m deep with near vertical sides and an irregular base was cut into the surface of the natural substrata. A single sherd of Neolithic Peterborough ware was recovered along with a clay pipe stem and a small quantity of mortar. The function of this feature is uncertain although it appears to be of a post-medieval/modern date. The Neolithic pottery is clearly residual, but indicates Neolithic activity in the area. Trench 1 also contained a domed brick structure (**107**), presumably associated with the reservoir that was once to the north-east of the site. As this feature may represent a capped well or cistern of relatively recent date it was preserved intact.
- 4.4.3 All of the archaeological features in Trenches 5, 6 and 7 were sealed below an approximately 0.20m thick greyish brown sandy clay loam deposit, possibly a buried topsoil. A single sherd of modern whiteware pottery was noted in this deposit in Trench 7 and it is likely that this deposit represents a topsoil deposit that was buried when the made-ground deposits were laid down, presumably to create the terraces on which the present school stands.

## 4.5 Undated Features

- 4.5.1 Four of the archaeological features investigated in Trenches 5 and 7 contained no datable finds. These comprised two post-holes and a linear gully in Trench 5 and a single pit in Trench 7. The two sub-circular post-holes (**505** and **509**); were both approximately 0.40m in diameter and between 0.20m and 0.30m deep with vertical sides and concave bases. The undated north-south aligned gully (**507**) was approximately 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep with steep, concave sides and a concave base. Although no finds were recovered from the single fill of this feature (**508**) occasional charcoal flecks were noted. In Trench 7 the undated sub-circular pit (**706**) was approximately 1.50m in diameter and 0.45m deep with moderately steep, concave sides and a concave base. No datable finds were recovered from the single greyish brown silty loam fill (**707**) although rare charcoal flecks were noted.
- 4.5.2 Although undated, these features are probably associated with the dated features also recorded in the southern part of the Site and are probably of Iron Age or Romano-British date.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a very small quantity of finds, deriving from six contexts. The assemblage includes items of prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon and post-medieval date. **Table 1** gives the quantification of finds by material type and by context.

### 5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Pottery was the most commonly occurring artefact type recovered, and provides most of the (limited) dating evidence for the site.
- 5.2.2 The earliest sherd is a small, abraded body sherd from 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/Late Neolithic Peterborough ware ceramic tradition, although sub-style is uncertain. This sherd was a residual find in a post-medieval context.
- 5.2.3 Nine sherds are in sandy fabrics, some also containing fine, randomly sorted flint inclusions; these are of Iron Age date and, although the absence of diagnostic pieces precludes any confident closer dating, can tentatively be assigned to the Middle/Late Iron Age. These sherds came from ditch **503**, pit **603**, ditch **606** and pit **704**. The sherds in ditches **503** and **606** are certainly residual, and the four sherds in pit **603** may also be, given the presence in the same context of a small fragment of imported lava quernstone which is unlikely to be earlier than Romano-British.



- 5.2.4 Eight sherds are Romano-British, comprising seven sandy wares (SAND) and one grog-tempered ware (GROG). Diagnostic pieces comprise one storage jar rim from ditch **503**, and a convex-sided dish from ditch **606**. One sherd from made ground **802** was residual in a post-medieval context.
- 5.2.5 Two sherds from ditch **503**, and one from ditch **606**, are in organic-tempered fabrics (CHAF) that are typical of the early/middle Saxon period (5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> centuries AD).
- 5.2.6 The remaining sherd, from made ground **802**, is a modern refined whiteware (REFW).

### 5.3 Other Finds

- 5.3.1 Other finds comprise one piece of post-medieval ceramic roof tile; a plain clay pipe stem; four small flint flakes; two tiny fragments from a blue glass bead, probably Romano-British; two pieces of mortar, and the piece of lava quernstone already mentioned.

**Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

Context	Description	Pottery	Other Finds
109	feature 108	1/5	2 mortar; 1 clay pipe
504	ditch 503	7/126	2 glass
604	pit 603	4/87	1 stone; 4 worked flint
607	ditch 606	6/65	
705	pit 704	2/30	
802	made ground	2/8	1 CBM
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>22/321</b>	

CBM = ceramic building material

## 6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluation trenches to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. The samples came from the fill (**604**) of a possible Iron Age to Romano-British pit **603** in Trench 6 and the fill (**504**) of a possible Romano-British to Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon ditch 503 in Trench 5.

### 6.2 Charred Plant Remains and charcoal

- 6.2.1 The samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 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 presence of charred remains quantified (Table E1) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains.
- 6.2.2 Both of the flots were extremely rooty and additionally fragments of possible coal were present in that from (**504**). As such there is a strong possibility that material within the samples may be intrusive or reworked.

- 6.2.3 No charred plant remains, in particular those associated with cereals, were recovered; small amounts of charcoal though were present along with a few fragments of round wood from pit **603**. No other environmental remains were recovered from the samples.
- 6.2.4 A few fragments of possible coal were also present along with possible slag from ditch **503**, although as noted above given the amount of rooting in this feature all of these elements may be intrusive.
- 6.2.5 Charred cereal remains are usually indicative of domestic activity and settlement and their absence can indicate an absence of occupation or at least intensive occupation. However, given the amount of rooting in the samples it is possible that any remains may have been destroyed by soil processes.

**Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Samples				Flot							
Feature	Context	Sample	Litres	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred			Comments	Charc'l >4/2mm	Other
						Grain	Chaff	Other			
Trench 6: ?Iron Age/Romano-British pit											
603	604	1	10	100	80	-	-	-	Twig wood and a few vitrified pieces of charcoal.	2ml/1ml	-
Trench 5 : ?Romano-British/Saxon ditch											
503	504	2	10	50	80	-	-	-	Vitrified charcoal/coal	1/0.5ml	Slag/coal

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

## 7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

### 7.1 Conclusions and discussion

7.1.1 In the north of the Site (Trenches 1, 2 and 3) the original south-facing slope appears to have been truncated by terracing to some extent, presumably during the construction of the present school in 1958. However, the survival of post-medieval or modern features in Trench 1 suggest that this may have been little more than the removal of topsoil. In the south of the Site (Trenches 5, 6 and 7) the original soil sequence appears to survive below made-ground deposits used to create a positive terrace. This has protected the archaeological features and deposits sealed below the buried topsoil, although all appeared to have been disturbed by tree roots at some time. Deep made-ground deposits in the north-west (Trench 4) and south-west (Trench 8) of the Site were not bottomed due to their excessive depth and the size of the machine that could access these areas, however, it is possible that these may seal the original soil sequence and consequently any archaeological features and deposits that may be present.

7.1.2 Although no features or deposits of Neolithic date were located by the evaluation, the recovery of a sherd of Neolithic pottery, albeit in a later

feature, suggests activity in the immediate area of the Site during this period. It also indicates a moderate potential for the survival of Neolithic features and deposits within the Site.

- 7.1.3 The concentration of Middle-Late Iron Age and Romano-British features in Trenches 5, 6 and 7 indicates that this part of the Site is an area of high archaeological potential (**Figure 2**). The probable Middle-Late Iron Age features appear to comprise sub-circular pits, although it is possible that some or all of the undated post-holes and linear feature may also be of this date. Although no definite settlement features such as hearths and buildings were located, the presence of possible storage or rubbish pits and the relatively large assemblage of Iron Age pottery recovered from later features suggests the presence of an Iron Age settlement in the near vicinity. Pits, stake-holes, gullies and a north-south orientated ditch of Late Iron Age date, possibly representing part of a settlement, were excavated at the Sir John Atkins Building, approximately 150m to the south-east and it is probable that the Iron Age features located by the evaluation represent a further part of the same extensive settlement.
- 7.1.4 The probable Romano-British features comprise a sub-rectangular pit and two north-south aligned ditches, although again, the undated features in Trench 5 could also be of Romano-British date. Again these appear similar to the Romano-British features identified at the Sir John Atkins Building approximately 150m to the south-east. It is also possible that these represent part of an extensive settlement in this area that may have been in constant occupation during the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods.
- 7.1.5 The evaluation also recovered three sherds of Early-Middle Saxon organic tempered pottery. These were considered intrusive in the fills of the two Romano-British ditches in which they were found. However, their presence indicates Saxon activity in the near vicinity and it is possible that the ditches are of Saxon date. The excavations at the Sir John Atkins Building recovered Saxon pottery from a possible buried soil horizon. As with the Iron Age and Romano-British material this could suggest that the Saxon activity in the area may also have been fairly extensive.

## 7.2 Recommendations for Further Work

- 7.2.1 The area of high archaeological potential identified in the south of the Site contains important archaeological features and deposits of Iron Age, Romano-British and potentially Saxon date. The western and central part of this (Trenches 6 and 7) area will be below a contractors compound and temporary reception block during the proposed demolition and construction phases of the project and below games courts following the completion of the building work whilst the eastern part of the area (Trench 5) is within the footprint of the proposed new school building.
- 7.2.2 Any areas of intrusive groundworks associated with the construction of the contractors compound, temporary reception block or games courts should be subject to further archaeological investigation, the scope of which would reflect the size and nature of the proposed groundworks. The eastern part of the area will be impacted by the construction of the new school building and the area to the north and east of Trench 5 that lies within the footprint of the new school building should be subject to archaeological excavation prior to

construction, possibly in conjunction with or prior to the demolition of the existing building, scheduled for August-November 2010. It is also possible that archaeological features and deposits may survive under the southern part of the existing school buildings and any groundworks associated with the demolition of these should be monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist.

- 7.2.3 Further works cannot be carried out on the site prior to commencement of development due to the constraints on site and requirement for demolition to be undertaken to enable these works. The timing and scope of any archaeological investigations will be dependent on the demolition and construction programme and the nature and depth of the groundworks to be undertaken, They will also be subject to discussion between the Client and/or their agents, the archaeological contractor and the Archaeological Advisor to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

## **8 ARCHIVE**

### **8.2 Preparation and Deposition**

- 8.2.1 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 **HDK 09** and Wessex Archaeology project code 71391. The completed archive for all stages of work will be deposited with The Museum of London under Site Code **HDK 09**.

### **8.3 Copyright**

- 8.3.1 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.

### **8.4 Security Copy**

- 8.4.1 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.

## **9 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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**Appendix 1: Greater London Sites and Monuments Record Within a 500m Radius of the Site**

WA No	GLSMR	Period	Description	Easting	Northing
1	MLO39213/ MLO39214	Palaeolithic	Findspot of "circular knife with neatly trimmed edge" and probable Lower Palaeolithic flint flake.	524700	179700
	ELO810/ ELO3037	Multi period	Archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation at The Philimores identified the remains of a possible Bronze Age burnt mound along with a series of post-holes, probably representing a structure, and associated pits. A post-medieval ditch and modern gully were also recorded.	525200	179800
3	ELO603/ ELO825/ ELO1404	Multi period	Archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation at The Sir John Atkins Building revealed a concentrated area of prehistoric and later activity cut into river terrace gravels in the up-slope area of the site. This included a large sub-rectangular feature and associated post-holes and pits dating to the Early Iron Age. The Late Iron Age was represented by pits, stake-holes, gullies and a north-south orientated ditch. Two Romano-British were also identified along broadly the same alignment. A probable plough soil, from which unabraded Saxon 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.	525100	179850
4	MLO13295/ MLO72936	Multi period	Suggested site of possible beacon on the hill for London-Silchester Road and site of gravel pit depicted on Roque's map of London 1746	525000	180400
5	MLO12520/ MLO18077/ MLO30525	Medieval	Approximate site of moated medieval manor and traces of 15 <sup>th</sup> century building found below post-medieval stable block	524800	179600
6	MLO59337	Post-medieval	Remains of 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century park/garden	524750	179750
7	MLO74386	Undated	Small area of undated, but possibly early strata recorded beyond 19th century basements	524580	179970

## APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of Trench Descriptions

<b>TRENCH - 1</b>		<b>NGR: 524930 180015</b>
<b>Dimensions – 10m x 1.80m</b>		<b>Ground Level – 34.60m-34.74m OD</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
100	Tarmac surface	0-0.10m
101	Very dark grey-black clinker with frogged brick inclusions. Bedding for 100.	0.10-0.20m
103	Brick and concrete rubble; made-ground deposit.	0.20-0.40m
104	Mid orange brown sandy clay subsoil.	0.40-0.70m
105	Mid orange brown coarse sand with common clay lenses. Natural substrata.	0.70m+
106	Domed brick and mortar structure, 2.60m in diameter, probably a capped well or cistern. Not excavated.	0.40m+
107	Circular construction cut for 106, 2.60m diameter. Cuts layer 104.	0.40m+
108	Irregular north-south aligned linear feature, 0.30m wide and 0.25m deep with near vertical sides and an irregular base.	0.70-0.95m
109	Mid greyish brown sandy loam fill of 108. Contained Neolithic pottery, post-medieval clay pipe stem and mortar fragments.	0.70-0.95m

<b>TRENCH – 2</b>		<b>NGR: 524930 180000</b>
<b>Dimensions – 10m x 1.80m</b>		<b>Ground Level – 34.55m-34.75m OD</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
200	Tarmac surface	0-0.10m
201	Very dark grey-black clinker with frogged brick inclusions. Bedding for 200.	0.10-0.20m
202	Brick and concrete rubble; made-ground deposit.	0.20-0.40m
203	Dark yellowish brown sandy gravel; made-ground deposit	0.40-0.60m
204	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam; possible buried topsoil deposit.	0.60-0.80m
205	Coarse orange brown sand with common clay lenses. Natural substrata.	0.80m+

<b>TRENCH - 3</b>		<b>NGR: 524920 179990</b>
<b>Dimensions – 10m x 1.80m</b>		<b>Ground Level – 34.20m-34.45m OD</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
300	Tarmac surface	0-0.10m
301	Very dark grey-black clinker with frogged brick inclusions. Bedding for 300.	0.10-0.20m
302	Brick and concrete rubble; made-ground deposit.	0.20-0.50m
303	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam; possible buried topsoil deposit.	0.50-0.70m
304	Coarse orange brown sand with common clay lenses. Natural substrata.	0.70m+

<b>TRENCH - 4</b>		<b>NGR: 524885 180000</b>
<b>Dimensions – 4m x 1m</b>		<b>Ground Level – 35.10m-35.25m OD</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
400	Mid-dark greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil.	0-0.20m
401	Brick and concrete rubble in a mid grey sandy loam matrix. Made-ground.	0.20-0.35m
402	Very compacted brick and concrete rubble. Made-ground.	0.35-0.80m
403	Very dark grey-black silty clay with common clinker and brick inclusions; colour becomes lighter with depth. Made-ground.	0.80-1.20m+

<b>TRENCH - 5</b>		<b>NGR: 524980 179920</b>
<b>Dimensions –8.70m x 1.80m</b>		<b>Ground Level – 32.95m-33.30m OD</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
500	Tarmac surface.	0-0.15m
501	Mixed sand, brick rubble and clinker bedding for 500.	0.15-0.40m
502	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam. Possible buried soil horizon.	0.40-0.60m
503	North-south aligned ditch, over 2m wide and 0.40m deep with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Filled with 504, cuts 511.	0.60-1.00m
504	Mid-dark greyish brown sandy clay loam with abundant gravel inclusions. Fill of ditch 503. Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon pottery recovered. Sample 2.	0.60-1.00m
505	Probable post-hole, 0.40m in diameter and 0.30m deep with vertical sides and a concave base. Filled with 506, cuts 511.	0.60-0.90m
506	Dark greyish brown sandy clay with abundant gravel inclusions. Fill of post-hole 505.	0.60-0.90m
507	North-south aligned gully, 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately steep, concave sides and a concave base. Filled with 508, cuts 511.	0.60-0.80m
508	Dark greyish brown sandy clay with abundant gravel inclusions. Fill of 507.	0.60-0.80m
509	Probable post-hole, 0.38m in diameter and 0.18m deep with vertical sides and a concave base. Filled with 510, cuts 511.	0.60-0.78m
510	Dark greyish brown sandy clay with abundant gravel inclusions. Fill of 509.	0.60-0.78m
511	Mid yellowish brown coarse sandy gravels. Natural substrata.	0.60m+

<b>TRENCH - 6</b>		<b>NGR: 524975 179915</b>
<b>Dimensions – 8.30m x 1.80m</b>		<b>Ground Level –33.18m-33.30m OD</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
600	Tarmac surface.	0-0.20m
601	Mixed sand, brick rubble and clinker bedding for 600.	0.20-0.50m
602	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam. Possible buried soil horizon.	0.50-0.72m
603	Sub-rectangular pit, approximately 1.50m long, 1.30m wide and 0.48m deep with steeply sloping sides and a fairly flat base. Filled with 604, cuts 605.	0.72-1.20m
604	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with abundant gravel inclusions. Fill of pit 603. Iron Age pottery recovered. Sample 1.	0.72-1.20m



605	Mid yellowish brown coarse sandy gravels. Natural substrata.	0.72m+
606	North-south aligned ditch, 1.35m wide and 0.30m deep with steep, concave sides and an irregular base. Filled with 607, cuts 605.	0.72-1.02m
607	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with abundant gravel inclusions. Fill of ditch 606. Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon pottery recovered.	0.72-1.02m

<b>TRENCH - 7</b>		<b>NGR: 524948 179915</b>
<b>Dimensions – 6.00m x 1.80m</b>		<b>Ground Level –32.65m-32.75m OD</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
700	Tarmac surface.	0-0.08m
701	Mixed sand, brick rubble and clinker bedding for 700.	0.08-0.40m
702	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam. Possible buried soil horizon. Modern whiteware pottery noted but not retained.	0.40-0.66m
703	Mid yellowish brown coarse sandy gravels. Natural substrata.	0.66m+
704	Sub-circular pit, approximately 1.30m in diameter and 0.52m deep with moderately steep, concave sides and a concave base. Filled with 705, cuts 703.	0.66-1.18m
705	Dark greyish brown sandy loam with abundant gravel inclusions. Fill of pit 704. Iron Age pottery recovered.	0.66-1.18m
706	Sub-circular pit, approximately 1.50m in diameter and 0.44m deep with moderately steep, concave sides and a concave base. Filled with 707, cuts 703.	0.66-1.10m
707	Dark greyish brown sandy loam with abundant gravel inclusions. Fill of pit 706.	0.66-1.10m

<b>TRENCH - 8</b>		<b>NGR: 524933 179892</b>
<b>Dimensions – 2m x 1m</b>		<b>Ground Level –32.45m-32.65m OD</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
800	Tarmac surface.	0-0.10m
801	Mixed sand, brick rubble and clinker bedding for 800.	0.10-0.30m
802	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with common gravel inclusions. Made-ground deposit. Romano-British and modern pottery recovered.	0.30-1.20m+



- The Site
- Study area
- Palaeolithic
- Medieval
- Post-medieval
- Multi-period
- Undated

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Site location plan and GLSMR

Figure 1



- The Site
- Concrete slab identified in Geotechnical Bore Holes
- Trench
- Archaeological feature
- Area of High Archaeological Potential

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Trench location plan

Figure 2