

**40 STATION ROAD, COLLIERS WOOD,  
LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON  
SW19 2LP**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**March 2018**



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## ***Abstract***

*On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Compass Archaeology conducted an Archaeological Evaluation on the site of 40 Station Road, Colliers Wood, London Borough of Merton SW19 2LP. The work was commissioned by Jomas Associates on behalf of the landowner, as part of a pre-commencement condition attached to an approved application to redevelop the site (ref.15/P1156).*

*The evaluation comprised two trenches targeted over several cut water filled features which appear on 19<sup>th</sup> century cartographic sources, and probably associated with the medieval complex of Merton Priory which stood in the immediate vicinity of the site. Specifically, a north-south 'canal' feature running through the centre of the site and a sluice and footpath towards the southern end of the site.*

*Trench 1, located towards the north of the site, measured 10m in length x 1.8 – 2.0m in width x a maximum of 2.55m in depth (c12.69mOD), aligned east-west. Trench 2 was located towards the centre of the site and measured 12m in length x 1.8m in width x a maximum of 2.8m in depth (11.36mOD), aligned northwest - southeast.*

*A large homogenous deposit was recorded at the western end of Trench 1, taken to be representative of the infilling of the water features between c1900 and 1911, however no clear edges to this feature or associated deposits were recorded. Similarly, a layer of early-20<sup>th</sup> century material was recorded in Trench 2 at a depth of 0.7m (c13.4mOD), taken to be associated with the redevelopment of the site, but no features associated with the 'canal', sluice or footpath were recorded.*

*The most significant feature was encountered in Trench 1, comprising two approximately square gravel pads cut into alluvial silt, recorded in the north facing section. The pads measured 1.3-1.5m in width, set 2.5m apart, encountered at a depth of 2.0-2.10m (12.18mOD). The pads are consistent with those encountered during previous archaeological investigations at 101 Christchurch Road are taken to be foundation pads for a now absent wall, belonging to Merton Priory, dated 1175-1225.*

*Natural geology was encountered at the southeastern end of Trench 2. The material comprised Taplow Park Gravels, recorded at a depth of 2.8m (11.36mOD). Natural geology was not observed in Trench 1.*

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*Figs.6 and 7 adapted from drawings supplied by The Client.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following document forms a summary of the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out on the site of 40 Station Road, Colliers Wood, London Borough of Merton SW19 2LP, ahead of redevelopment of the land (fig.1).

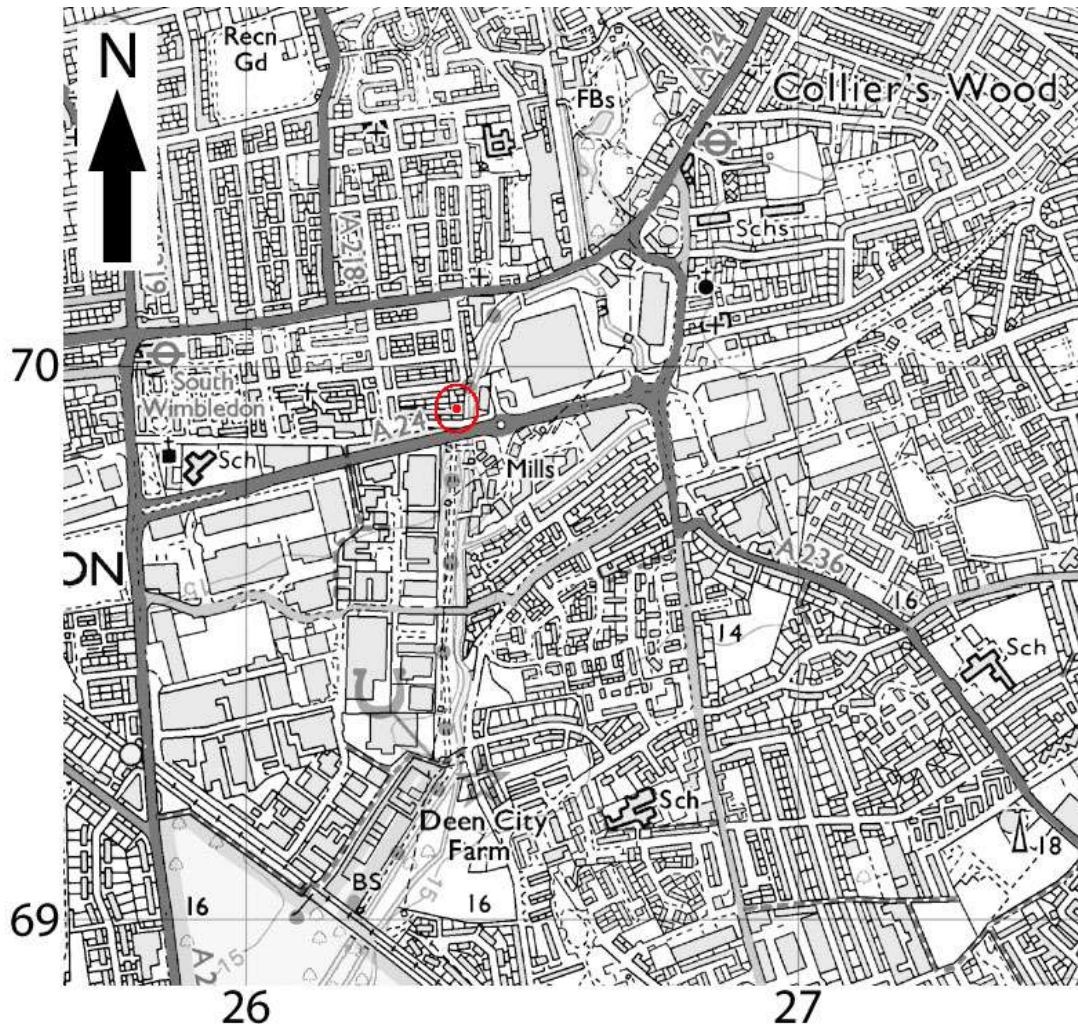


Figure 1: Site location, marked in red.

- 1.2 The evaluation was commissioned by Jomas Associates on behalf of the landowner, as part of a pre-commencement condition attached to an approved application to redevelop the site (ref. 15/P1156).
- 1.3 The work was deemed necessary due to its location within the historic complex of Merton Priory, specifically a series of pond features. The investigation was intended to help mitigate the perceived impact, and assess the level and nature of archaeological survival across the development footprint.
- 1.4 The site is located within the Tier 2 ‘Wandle Valley / Colliers Wood’ Archaeological Priority Area as designated by Merton Council (fig.2). The Tier 1 APA of ‘Merton Priory’, which covers the known extent of the original monastic precinct, lies east of the site, with the River Wandle forming the western edge of the APA.



Figure 2: Surrounding APAs (black and blue) and the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Merton Priory (yellow), in relation to the site (red).

## 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Compass Archaeology would like to thank Jomas Associates for commissioning the archaeological works. Thanks also to O'Connell's for supplying the plant and undertaking the groundworks.



### 3 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 The site lies on the north side of Station Road with the River Wandle immediately to the east, and no.38 Station Road to the west. The rear of the property backs on to the rear of nos.40-46 Dane Road, a mixture of semi-detached terraces and industrial units.

The site is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 32m in length (N-S), x 25.5m in width, covering c840m<sup>2</sup>.

Prior to the archaeological investigation the site was occupied by a large rectangular wholesale warehouse in the north-eastern part of the site, with a thin corridor of open area to the west and south, used for parking and further free-standing storage units.

3.2 According to the British Geological Survey (sheet 270: South London) the site overlies an outcrop of Kempton Park Gravels on the western boundary of the alluvium associated with the Wandle Valley, running north-south to the east. To the north is a large block of Head; classified as mixed sand, silt and clay with occasional gravels (fig.3).

3.3 The site is relatively level with a spot height of 14.80mOD on Station Road outside the site.

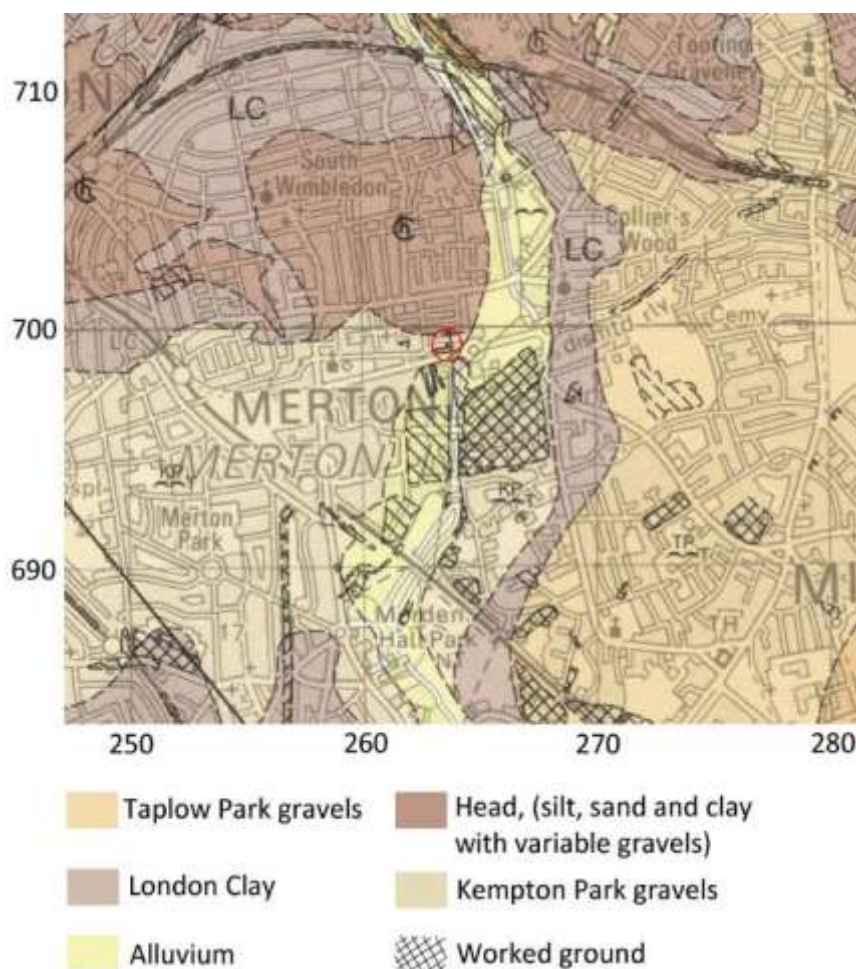


Figure 3: Extract from the BGS sheet 270, with site location marked in red.

## **4 HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

**4.1** As the historical background to the site has been discussed at length in the desk-based assessment produced by Compass Archaeology (2015), general summaries for each of the major historical periods are given below.

### **4.2 *Prehistoric***

It is not believed that the site and its immediate environs was extensively settled during the prehistoric period, although the Wandle Valley as a whole certainly attracted a certain amount of activity. The presence of the river and the well-drained gravels may have made the site a suitable location for settlement, but it is more likely to have been exploited on a purely opportunistic or seasonal basis. It is possible that the area was under cultivation, but a paucity of recorded archaeological finds or deposits from this period make it hard to prove.

### **4.3 *Roman***

The presence of Stane Street, a major Roman thoroughfare projected to pass within a hundred metres or so to the south-east of the site, makes it possible that the area may have been under cultivation, similar to the prehistoric period, or even occupied by roadsides structures or activity.

### **4.4 *Saxon***

Although Merton was an established settlement by the 7th century, this is not reflected in the archaeological record. It is probable that the line of Stane Street may still have existed during this period, although as a less significant route – by the 12th century it was certainly lost.

### **4.5 *Medieval***

The history of the site is linked with that of Merton Priory. Founded in the early 12th century and expanded throughout the 13th, the Priory grounds covered a large area, including the study site. It would appear that the site lay just to the north of the former guesthouse, separated by an approach path or road, to the west front of the Priory and potentially surrounded by a wall into which a gate was set (the Highgate). It is likely that the land was cultivated or at least subject to management of some sort by the monastic community.

A large north-south pond shown on early cartographic sources which falls within the western half of the site may well be a post-medieval feature, however it is possible it is derived from a monastic fishpond, or a series of compartmentalised ponds. Examples elsewhere include similarly narrow elongated features, for example the series of ponds at Chertsey Abbey – albeit in this case somewhat smaller (c55m x 10m), and arranged in a series of parallel lines rather than one possibly continuous block.

#### 4.6 *Post-medieval*

The post-medieval period saw the Dissolution of the Priory church in the mid-16th century, however at least some of the ancillary buildings associated with the monastic estate survived into the late-19th century. The site devolved into a large estate known interchangeably as Abbey Gate House, Abbey House and The Gatehouse.

By the beginning of the 19th century the site was occupied by a large water feature referred to as a fishpond, but which could equally have been an ornamental water 'canal' within pleasure grounds of the estate. It may well have been reconstructed in the 17th or earlier 18th century, though it does not appear on early cartographic sources.

The Merton Abbey Estate Map of c1805 also indicated three adjoining buildings just to the east of the water feature. However, these do not appear on any other plans and may therefore have been fairly short-lived or inconsequential (fig.4).

The other significant feature in this area of the site is The Highgate – a turreted gateway and adjacent east-west walling that was present by at least the late-17th century. This is believed to lie just on or outside the southern boundary of the present site (fig.5).

The pond was filled in sometime in the early-20th century and replaced with a metal store – likely to be a warehouse structure similar to that occupying the present site prior to demolition.

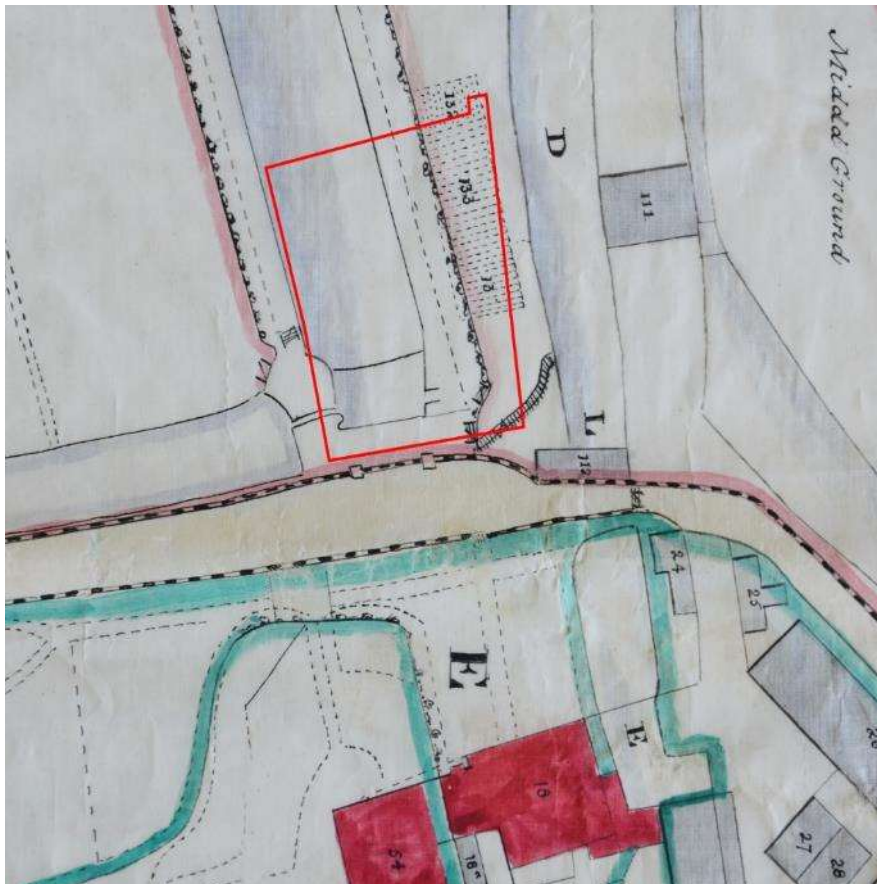


Figure 4: Enlarged section of the 1805 Estate Map, with present site boundary shown in red.

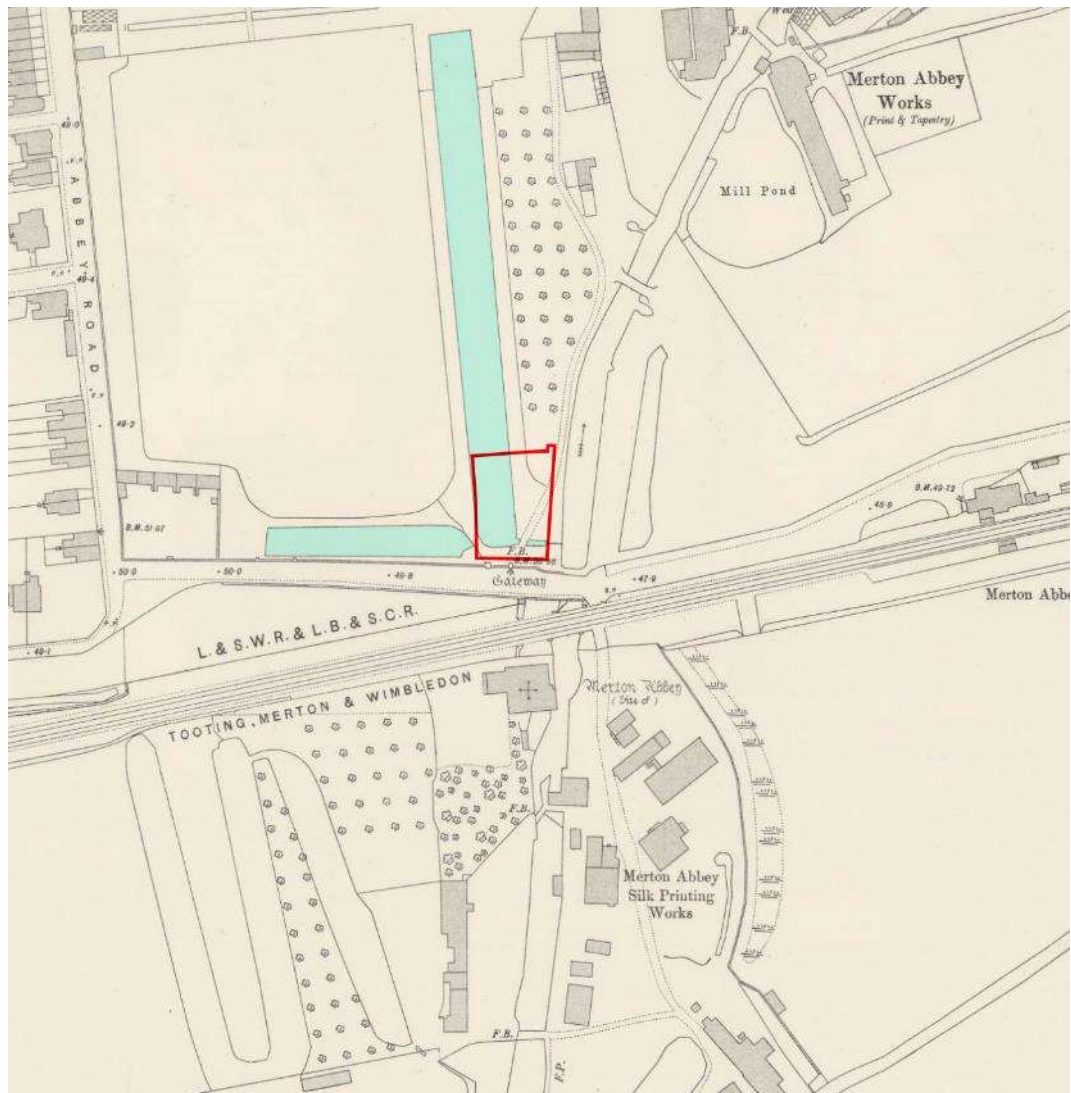


Figure 5: Extract from the 1895 OS Map, showing the site of Merton Abbey, gateway and 'canal' features, with present site boundary marked in red.

## 5 PLANNING AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 The proposed development will entail the demolition of all extant structures and construction of two four-bedroom, semi-detached properties and a three-storey block of seven flat with four off-street car parking spaces and associated amenity space (fig.6).



Figure 6: Proposed ground floor plan of new development, with site outline marked in red. Adapted from drawing 001/PL/201 supplied by the Client.

- 5.2 The proposed development site lies within the immediate environs of the historic Merton Priory complex (SAM LO151), specifically, over a large water-filled cut feature, taken to be a possible fishpond or similar. As such an archaeological evaluation was deemed necessary to ascertain the nature of, level of survival, and condition of any archaeological remains likely to be affected within the redevelopment footprint.
- 5.3 This report represents one element in the archaeological planning process whereby early consideration of potential archaeological remains can be achieved, and if necessary appropriate further mitigation measures put in place. This conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), adopted in March 2012, which replaces PPS 5 'Planning for the Historic Environment' and policies HE6 and HE7.

- 5.4 The Government adopted the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012. The NPPF integrates planning strategy on ‘heritage assets’ - bringing together all aspects of the historic environment, below and above ground, including historic buildings and structures, landscapes, archaeological sites, and wrecks. The significance of heritage assets needs to be considered in the planning process, whether designated or not, and the settings of assets taken into account. NPPF requires using an integrated approach to establishing the overall significance of the heritage asset using evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal values, to ensure that planning decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of significance.
- 5.5 The site lies within the London Borough of Merton which has its own additional policies regarding archaeological remains and development contained within its Unitary Development Plan (adopted 2003), and repeated in the Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes: Archaeology (2004), policies BE13 and BE14 being most relevant:

***Policy BE.13: Archaeological Protection and Preservation***

*The council will encourage early consultation on development proposals affecting sites of archaeological importance and their settings.*

- (I) *There will be a general presumption in favour of the permanent physical preservation of all Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally important archaeological sites and their settings. Planning permission will not be granted for development that would adversely affect such monuments and sites, involve significant alteration to them or would have a harmful impact on their settings.*
- (II) *Locally important archaeological remains should preferably also be preserved in-situ. Exceptionally, where remains cannot be preserved in-situ, they will be preserved by record through an appropriate programme of archaeological work by a recognised archaeological organisation before development begins, in accordance with a project design approved by the council. Such provision shall also include the subsequent publication of results.*

***Policy BE.14: Archaeological Evaluation***

*Before development commences on the site, reference should be made to the council’s Supplementary Planning Guidance note on archaeology.*

*Where development is proposed within an Archaeological Priority Zone, as shown on the Proposals Map, the council may require a preliminary archaeological site evaluation and archaeological impact assessment before proposals are considered. This requirement may also be applied to sites outside the Archaeological Priority Zones especially where they are over 0.6ha or where there is proven or known archaeological potential.*

**5.6** The development site itself is perhaps more likely to contain elements of Merton Place; the large property once located in this area from c1700 at the south end of Merton High Street and owned by Admiral Nelson. The property included some of the former Priory Grange's lands and dovecote and is now a designated Archaeological Priority Zone.

## **5.7 Archaeological research questions**

The evaluation provided the opportunity to answer the following specific and more general research questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity on the site? Is it opportunistic / seasonal exploitation or a more formal sedentary occupation? What form does this take?
- Is there any evidence associated with road side activity along the projected course of Stane Street during the Roman period? If so is this domestic, agricultural, administrative, military, religious, or industrial?
- Is there any evidence of early-medieval activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site? If so what form does this take? Can this be associated with the wider precincts of Merton Priory or grange lands?
- Is there evidence of an earlier watercourse on the site linked with a former line of the River Wandle? Can this be dated and associated with any known cartographic or documentary evidence?
- Is there any surviving evidence of the infilled water features which are shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps? Can these be dated either to their construction or backfilling? What function did these features play in the local landscape?
- Is there any evidence for the 20<sup>th</sup> century uses of the site prior to the construction of extant structures?
- At what level and to what extent do archaeological deposits survive across the site?
- What is the nature and depth of natural geology across the site?

## **6 METHODOLOGY**

### **6.1 Standards**

**6.1.1** The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (*Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work, 2015*). Works also conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, 2014*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute. The fieldwork and consent followed the methodology outlined below as set out in an accompanying Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Compass Archaeology in November 2017.

**6.1.2** Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team held CSCS (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme) cards, and wore hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, steel-toe-capped boots, etc., as required.

**6.1.3** The Client, Merton Council and Historic England were kept informed of the progress of fieldwork and any finds.

## **6.2 Fieldwork**

**6.2.1** The archaeological investigation took place as a pre-determination exercise prior to groundworks for the proposed development as described above, (section 5.1). The fieldwork involved the excavation of two trenches (fig.7) sited to provide enough coverage of the proposed development footprint and to potentially locate any surviving remains of the infilled cut feature / Merton Place. The trenches were dug to a depth of 2 – 2.5m below ground level, the point at which cleaner, less disturbed deposits were encountered between 2.5 and 2.8m below ground level.

Trench 1 was located at the northern end of the site, aligned approximately east-west, targeting the eastern edge of the ‘canal’ feature and also the western boundary of an orchard which appears on the 1895 OS map. The trench measured 10m in length x 1.8-2.0m in width x a maximum of 2.55m in depth (c12.69mOD).

Trench 2 was intended to be located towards the south-east corner of the development, aligned northwest-southeast, targeting a crossing point between the southern end of the ‘canal’ and the sluice / channel linking it to the Wandle, also seen on historic cartographic sources. The trench measured 12m in length x 1.8m in width x a maximum of 2.8m in depth (11.36mOD). However, due to the presence of an existing sewer the trench was relocated 5m further north-west, closer to the centre of the site.





Figure 7: Location of completed trenches (orange) in relation to the proposed new development (green).

- 6.2.2** Excavation of the trenches was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, supervised by a team of archaeologists. Deposits were removed in shallow spits, a layer at a time with finds being separated as the works progressed. Up to a depth of 1.2m below ground the sections were cleaned by hand and recorded, after which point the trenches were not entered.
- 6.2.3** Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan / section, generally at scales of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid, and also included as a shapefile in .dwg format.. Levels were taken on the top and bottom of archaeological deposits, transferred from the nearest Ordnance Datum Benchmark (*62 Merton High Street* at 14.97mOD). The fieldwork record will be supplemented by digital photography, in .jpeg and RAW formats.

**6.2.4** The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used are directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

### **6.3 Post-excavation**

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

#### **6.3.1 Finds and samples**

Assessment of finds was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff (see Appendices III-VI). Finds and samples were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's 'Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London'. All identified finds and artefacts have been retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although certain classes of material were discarded once an appropriate record had been made. Sensitive artefacts will be properly treated, in line with the appropriate Standards.

### **6.4 Report procedure**

**6.4.1** This report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations have been included as appropriate, including a site plan located to the OS grid. A short summary of the project has also been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in summary form for the London Archaeologist round-up.

**6.4.2** Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client, Historic England and the Borough Council.

**6.4.3** There is no provision for further analysis or publication of significant findings. Should these be made the requirements would need to be discussed and agreed with the Client and with respective authorities.

### **6.5 The site archive**

Assuming that no further work is required, an ordered indexed and internally consistent archive of the evaluation will be compiled in line with MoL 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives', and will be deposited with Museum of London Archaeological Archive under the site code SAT18. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the Museum.

## 7 RESULTS

7.1 What follows is a written description of observations made during the evaluation. The trenches are described in the order as numbered in fig.7. In the main text deposits are shown in round brackets thus (x) and cuts and structures [x]. The text is supplemented with illustrative photographs and accompanying trench plans and sections.

### 7.2 Trench 1

7.2.1 Trench 1 was located on the northern side of the site, aligned east-west. The trench measured 10m in length x 1.8-2.0m in width x a maximum of 2.55m in depth (c12.69mOD) and excavated by machine (figs.8-9).



Figure 8: Western end of the completed trench. Facing approximately NW. Scale 3m.



*Figure 9: Completed eastern end of the trench. Facing SW. Scale 3m.*

- 7.2.2** The lowest deposit encountered was a well compacted, wet, dark grey silty clay (9) containing some fibrous inclusions, small stones and dirtier patches due to commingling with the layers above. The context was encountered at a depth of c1.2m (12.44mOD) and continued below the level of excavation at 12.69mOD.
- 7.2.3** The context (9) was truncated at the eastern and western ends of the trench by two linear cut features (fig.10).



Figure 10: Cut features (10) / [11], to the left of the scale, and (12) / [13] to the right, as observed in the north facing section. Facing SE. Scale 3m.

**7.2.4** The western cut, [13], was encountered at a depth of 2.0-2.1m (12.18mOD) and observed both in plan and in the north facing section during machine excavation. The cut was linear in plan, extending northwards into the trench, measuring 1.3-1.4m in width, although due to water ingress and loose compaction of the fill, this is an approximation (fig.11).

The fill, (12), comprised moderately loosely compacted grey gravel / shingle with infrequent fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (see Appendix III).



Figure 11: Cut feature (12) / [13] below arrow. Traces of a broken pipe blocked off with fabric can be seen towards the trench base, truncating the feature. Facing SW. Scale 3m.

- 7.2.5** The feature was truncated and disturbed by a modern water pipe running north-south through the western end of the trench at a depth of 2.2m, making the edges less defined, however the fill is taken to continue below the level of excavation.
- 7.2.6** The eastern feature, [11], was similar in appearance, comprising a linear cut extending northwards into the trench by approximately 300mm from the southern section, also observed at a depth of 2.0-2.1m below ground (fig.12). The feature in its entirety is taken to be square or rectangular, measuring 1.4 – 1.5m in width x a minimum of 0.4m in thickness, continuing below the level of excavation.

The fill, (10) consisted of the same grey gravel, stone and infrequent CBM inclusions also observed in the western cut feature (12) / [13], with the CBM also being of the same 13<sup>th</sup> century date.



Figure 12: Gravel filled cut feature (10) / [11], with outline marked in red. Facing S. Scale 1.4m

- 7.2.7** Cut feature (10) / [11] was more defined in appearance however it was partially disturbed due to the water ingress in the trench.
- 7.2.8** Both cut features were overlain by more of the same grey silty clay (9) with no clear delineation in deposition.
- 7.2.9** At the eastern end of the trench (9) was overlain by a deposit of mottled pale brown-yellow-grey clay (6). The deposit was discoloured but contained no other inclusions. The context was encountered at a depth of 1m and measured 0.24 – 0.52m in thickness, narrowing at the eastern end.
- 7.2.10** The mottled clay (6) was in turn overlain by two distinct deposits, (3) and (5). Context (3) comprised a moderately well compacted brown soil abundant with patches of yellow sand, CBM and white mortar, recorded in the north facing section. The layer was encountered at a depth of 0.2-0.4m, measuring at least 2.6m in width x 0.7-0.8m in thickness, continuing beyond the eastern extent of excavation (fig.13).

Context (5) consisted of a mid to dark grey silty clay moderately abundant with small fragments of mortar, stone and medieval to post-medieval CBM. The deposit measured 1.2m in width x 0.7 – at least 1.95m in depth and is likely to be associated with context (22), discussed below.



Figure 13: Stratigraphy observed in the upper 1.2m of Trench 1, comprising demolition rubble and made ground over mottled clay (6) and blackish silt (9). Facing SE. Scale 1m.

- 7.2.11** The two contexts are divided by a vertical ‘cut’, [4], the base of which terminates at the top of (6). The stratigraphic relationship between the two deposits is unclear – it is possible that it is two discrete backfill deposits within a larger feature, rather than a distinct cut / fill.
- 7.2.12** At the western end of the trench, beyond the gravel filled cut feature (10) / [11] the stratigraphy comprised a large homogenous deposit of moderately loosely compacted, wet, mid grey silty clay (22), containing infrequent stone rubble and CBM inclusions. The base and eastern edge of the deposit was heavily truncated by the north-south water pipe, which had obliterated the eastern extent. Context (22) was observed at a depth of 0.5m below ground and continued below the level of excavation. The deposit contained a quantity of post-medieval glass, pottery and CBM (fig.14).





*Figure 14: Western end of Trench 1, showing context (22) below modern demolition rubble (1). Facing WNW. Scale 3m.*

**7.2.13** Contexts (3), (5) and (22) were all overlain by a thin layer of firm brown clay (2), measuring 200 – 300mm in thickness, observed across the majority of the trench, truncated in places by the modern demolition works.

**7.2.14** The uppermost layer observed across the trench entirety comprised a loosely compacted spread of modern CBM demolition rubble, containing occasional in-situ bricks, measuring between 20mm and 250mm in thickness.

### 7.3 Trench 2

- 7.3.1 The second trench was located towards the centre of the proposed development site, aligned northwest-southeast. The trench measured 12m in length x 1.8-m in width x a maximum of 2.8m in depth (11.36mOD) (figs.15-16).



Figure 15: Completed northwestern end of Trench 2. Facing NE. Scale 3m.



Figure 16: Completed southeastern end of Trench 2. Facing SE. Scale 4m.

- 7.3.2** The lowest deposit encountered comprised coarse gravels (19) at a depth of 2.8m, taken to be the natural geology. The uppermost part of the gravels was slightly wetter and siltier. No other inclusions were observed.
- 7.3.3** This was overlain by a starkly contrasting, homogenous deposit of relatively fine, soft, wet, pale grey – cream silty sand (18). The layer was encountered at a uniform 2.3m below ground level (12.08m) and measured 700mm in thickness (fig.17).



Figure 17: Stratigraphy observed in the south-west facing section, with the contrasting pale sand (18) seen at the trench base. Facing NE. Scale 2.5m.

- 7.3.4** Between 2.3m and 2.0m, in the south-west facing section was a small deposit of sandy silt, CBM tile and more alluvial silt (23), lying between the light sand (18) below and grey-black silt (17) above.
- 7.3.5** Above this was a thin layer of dark grey – black silt (17), with some lighter patches but no other inclusions. The context was encountered at a depth of c1.5m below ground level (12.63mOD), extending across the trench entirety measuring 550mm in thickness.
- 7.3.6** The upper part of context (17) was lighter grey in colour, but still comprising a soft silty slay with no other inclusions (16). The layer was encountered at a depth of 0.9 – 1.15m below ground level, measuring 350 – 650mm in thickness, narrowing at the northwestern end.
- 7.3.7** Context (16) was overlain by a loosely compacted layer of very wet dark grey – black silt containing frequent cobbles and CBM inclusions (21). The deposit was recording across the northwestern end of the trench, measuring 200mm in thickness, sloping downwards towards the south-east facing section. The context produced a significant quantity of post-medieval finds, including glass bottles, a metal horse snaffle bit and a complete small cart wheel (see Appendix VI) (fig.18).



Figure 18: Stratigraphy observed in the upper 1.2m of Trench 2. The layers of post-medieval dumping (20) and (21) can be seen to the left of the scale, above the grey silt (16). Facing NE. Scale 1m.

- 7.3.8** Immediately above the wet material was an isolated deposit of damp horse manure (20), measuring 30-130mm in thickness, containing no other inclusions.
- 7.3.9** The two post-medieval deposits were sealed by a layer of dark grey silt (15) containing occasional fragments of CBM and a single complete brick. The deposit was encountered at approximately 13.62mOD and measured 250-300mm in thickness, observed across the trench entirety.
- 7.3.10** The most recent deposit, recorded across the trench entirety comprised a thick layer of pale brown-yellow clay, with frequent inclusions of chalk and CBM rubble, and concrete (14), measuring between 470 and 720mm in thickness.
- 7.3.11** At the southeastern end of the trench, the pale grey-cream sand (18) was observed overlying natural gravels (19) however the material above was much more disturbed, homogenous and loosely compacted than recorded at the northwestern end (fig.19).



*Figure 19: Upper 1.2m of southeastern end of the trench. The stratigraphy is more disturbed and less defined than that seen at the northwestern end. Facing NE. Scale 1m.*

**7.4** Once completed and recorded both trenches were backfilled via machine.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

- 8.1** Trench 1 was targeted over the southeastern end of the ‘canal’ feature shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps. The homogenous backfill (22) recorded at the western end of the trench is interpreted as the post-medieval infilling of this cut feature. The homogeneity of this deposit would suggest that the backfilling occurred as a single event, or over a short period of time, using consistent material. The deposit is also taken to partially truncate the gravel filled foundation pad (12) / [13] indicating this water filled feature belongs to a separate, later period of development on the site and therefore not contemporary with at least one phase of the monastic complex.

However, in spite of the clearly defined extent of the structure shown on the cartographic sources, no edge to the cut feature was observed. This is taken to be a result of the extensive disturbance caused by the cutting for and installation of a modern north-south running water pipe which was recorded towards the base of the trench, in the area where the eastern edge of the ‘canal’ feature was projected to be.

- 8.2** The stratigraphy observed in the rest of the trench was taken to be consistent with post-medieval and modern made ground / levelling layers.
- 8.3** The most significant feature encountered in Trench 1 was the presence of the two gravel filled cut features recorded towards the trench base. The two features, pads, are taken to be approximately square in plan, set 2.5m apart, on the same alignment. The pads are similar in appearance and composition to wall supports recorded during a previous archaeological investigation at 101 Christchurch Road, Colliers Wood (Compass Archaeology 2014).

The investigation exposed some 2.8m of a substantial stone wall, apparently forming part of the medieval outer precinct wall of Merton Priory, constructed almost entirely of loosely mortared flint and chalk, sitting on top of an unmortared gravel foundation pad measuring 1.5m x 1.2m in plan and at least 1m in depth, plus the edge of a second pad some 1.5m to the north (figs.20-21).

Evidence from this site suggests that the wall was constructed on more or less equidistantly spaced foundation pads – with each pad separated from the next by a similar length of shallower stone footing. The construction date for the precinct is unknown but may well lie between the mid-1220s and 1300, based on archaeological and historical evidence for the contemporary development and expansion of Merton Priory. Analysis of the CBM material recovered from 40 Station Road is consistent with this date and would suggest that the features recorded during the evaluation are foundation pads for a large wall – although no trace of the wall now remains.



Figure 20: 101 Christchurch Road - View along the precinct wall (below the scale) which sat above the gravel pad, with a later post-medieval wall to the left of frame. Facing WNW. Scale 0.5m.



Figure 21: 101 Christchurch Road. View of the foundation pad looking northeast, exposed after the removal of the precinct wall; to the right of the 0.5m scale the gravel fill was removed to expose the darker alluvium into which the pad was cut.



- 8.4** The lack of distinction between the greyish silt (9) above and below the pads suggests it may have just backfilled naturally, or the material slumped and settling over the gravel / shingle, rather than deliberately removed and covered over. However, due to the depth of the excavations and lack of access to the trench to investigate the features further this cannot be confirmed.
- 8.5** Trench 2 was targeted over a crossing point between the southern end of the ‘canal’ and the sluice / channel linking it to the Wandle, also seen on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps. The stratigraphy observed at the northwestern and southeastern ends of the trench was noticeably different, however, due to the trench being relocated further north-west as the result of an existing sewer, the final location was deemed to fall outside of this feature.
- 8.6** Much of the stratigraphy in Trench 2 is interpreted as alluvial deposition and build up. At the southeastern end, the deposit of CBM (23) lying horizontally on top of silty layer may represent a post-demolition period where there area was left exposed for a period of time, before being covered over by a sandier alluvial deposit.
- 8.7** At the northwestern end of the trench much of the material recovered from context (21) is early-20th in date, and probably represents the infilling and repurposing of the site. It is unclear if the metal horse snaffle bit and layer of manure represent a stable or similar structure in the vicinity, or if it is a more ephemeral deposit associated with the general industrial and commercial activity in the area.

Analysis of the pottery recovered from the deposit revealed the assemblage is typical of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century sites in the region, comprising a mix of household and table wares. Two fragments of Hartley’s Stoneware jam jars were recovered from context (21). The Hartley factory opened in Bermondsey in 1902, confirming that the infilling of the water feature must have taken place after this time.

- 8.8** In general, the abundance of alluvial / water lain deposits and relative depth at which the potentially medieval features were encountered, suggests that historically the area was probably very low lying – making it prone to flooding.

## 9 CONCLUSION

9.1 We can now look back at the original research questions set down in the WSI and compare them with the results of the evaluation.

9.2 *Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity on the site? Is it opportunistic / seasonal exploitation or a more formal sedentary occupation? What form does this take?*

No prehistoric finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded during the evaluation. It is likely that any evidence of prehistoric activity was truncated by later occupation.

9.3 *Is there any evidence associated with road side activity along the projected course of Stane Street during the Roman period? If so is this domestic, agricultural, administrative, military, religious, or industrial?*

No evidence of Roman activity, in any form, was observed during the evaluation. Given the levels at which medieval and post-medieval features were recorded it is likely that, if any Roman finds or features do survive, they exist at a lower level, in Trench 1 in particular where natural geology was not encountered.

9.4 *Is there any evidence of early-medieval activity on the site?*

The Augustinian priory of St Mary Merton (Surrey) was founded in 1117, with various alterations occurring between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Ceramic Building Material recovered from the present evaluation dates predominantly to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is likely to represent the main occupation period within the wider precincts of the priory, rather than any early medieval activity.

9.5 *Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site? If so what form does this take? Can this be associated with the wider precincts of Merton Priory or grange lands?*

Two approximately cubic gravel filled pads recorded in the north facing section of Trench 1 are taken to be foundation pads for a wall (now missing). As only two partial pads were uncovered it is unclear what direction / alignment this wall would have ran. CBM recovered from the two fills is similar in composition and date, with both assemblages being dated to between 1120 and 1400, with a more specific range of c1175-1225 suggested.

These features belong to an as yet unknown structure / boundary wall located within the northwest corner of the priory precinct. They were, at some point during the post-dissolution period, possibly as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century, truncated by a large water filled cut feature, referred to as a fishpond, although it may equally have been an ornamental 'canal' within the pleasure grounds of the early-19<sup>th</sup> century Merton Abbey Estate.

**9.6** *Is there evidence of an earlier watercourse on the site linked with a former line of the River Wandle? Can this be dated and associated with any known cartographic or documentary evidence?*

No features associated with the River Wandle were recorded during the evaluation which would suggest an alternative course. However, in general, the level at which early archaeological deposits were encountered suggests that historically the area was very low lying and would have been prone to flooding.

**9.7** *Is there any surviving evidence of the infilled water features which are shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps? Can these be dated either to their construction or backfilling? What function did these features play in the local landscape?*

A homogenous deposit of silty material was encountered at the western end of Trench 2, context (22) which is taken to be the remains of a large scale infilling of one of the water features. The feature shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps is a large north-south aligned 'canal', the eastern edge of which runs through the western end of Trench 1. Although no edge was observed (taken to be the result of modern truncation) the deposit is still taken to be consistent with the infilling of this feature which took place in c1900-1910.

Due to the presence of an existing sewer located towards the south-east corner of the site, Trench 2 was relocated 5m north-west, putting the new location outside of the possible sluice feature shown on the 19<sup>th</sup> century maps. No evidence of the canal / water features were encountered in this trench.

**9.8** *Is there any evidence for the 20<sup>th</sup> century uses of the site prior to the construction of extant structures?*

No traces of 20<sup>th</sup> century structures were recorded during the evaluation. A layer of post-medieval backfill containing quantities of glass bottles, pottery and metal, in addition to a thinner layer of horse manure, was recorded in Trench 2 at a depth of c0.7-0.8m below ground level (c13.4mOD), taken to be consistent with the c1900-1910 alterations made to the site. The presence of horse manure, a metal snaffle bit and a quantity of cobbles recovered from these contexts may suggest the area was utilised as a stable yard, or similar, during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, possibly associated with the surrounding industrial yards and railway line, however this cannot be confirmed.

**9.9** *At what level and to what extent do archaeological deposits survive across the site?*

The extent of survival of archaeological deposits varied across the length of the trenches, particularly in Trench 2, where a clear post-medieval stratigraphic sequence was replaced by a more disturbed, commingled deposition.

In Trench 1, medieval wall foundation pads were encountered at a depth of 2.0-2.10m (12.18mOD), continuing below the level of excavation at 2.55m (12.69mOD). These were sealed by a thick layer of greyish alluvial silt and a sequence of post-medieval made ground / levelling deposits. Modern rubble overburden sealed the post-medieval deposits, the base of which was encountered at a depth of 250mm (13.80mOD).

In Trench 2 an isolated spread of horizontal post-medieval CBM was encountered at the southeastern end at a depth of 2.0-2.3m (c12.31-12.01mOD), but did not appear to correspond to any associated features at the northwestern end of the trench. The sequence at the northwestern end comprised a layers of alluvial silts, sands and clays overlain by a deposit of early-20<sup>th</sup> century backfill and horse manure, encountered at a depth of c0.75m (c13.56mOD). Similarly to Trench 1, the post-medieval stratigraphy was sealed by a layer of modern demolition rubble, measuring up to 200mm in thickness.

**9.10** *What is the nature and depth of natural geology across the site?*

Natural geology was encountered at the southeastern end of Trench 2. The material comprised Taplow Park Gravels, recorded at a depth of 2.8m (11.36mOD). Natural geology was not observed in Trench 1.

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### **10.2 Cartographic sources (chronological)**

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Ordnance Survey (1895). *Five-feet-to-the-mile, Sheet XIV.39*

British Geological Survey (1998). *Solid and Drift Geology, Sheets 256 & 279*

## APPENDIX I – LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Description
(1)	1	Modern demolition rubble spread
(2)	1	Brown clay beneath (1)
(3)	1	Mixed brown soil
[4]	1	Cut between (3) and (5)
(5)	1	Dark brown – grey silty clay
(6)	1	Mottled pale brown-yellow / grey clay
(7)	1	Brown sandy silt. Fill of [8]
[8]	1	Cut of pit feature in (9)
(9)	1	Dark grey clay – silt
(10)	1	Gravel fill of cut feature [11]
[11]	1	Cut feature in north facing section - eastern
(12)	1	Gravel fill of cut feature [13]
[13]	1	Cut feature in north facing section - western
(14)	2	Pale brown – yellow clay
(15)	2	Dark grey silt
(16)	2	Green – grey soft silty clay
(17)	2	Dark grey silt
(18)	2	Very pale grey – cream soft sand
(19)	2	Natural gravels
(20)	2	Horse manure
(21)	2	Dark grey – black dumped deposit
(22)	1	Post-medieval backfill – western end of Trench 1
(23)	2	CBM/Silt/Sand deposit at south-east end of Trench 2

## APPENDIX II – ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION DRAWINGS

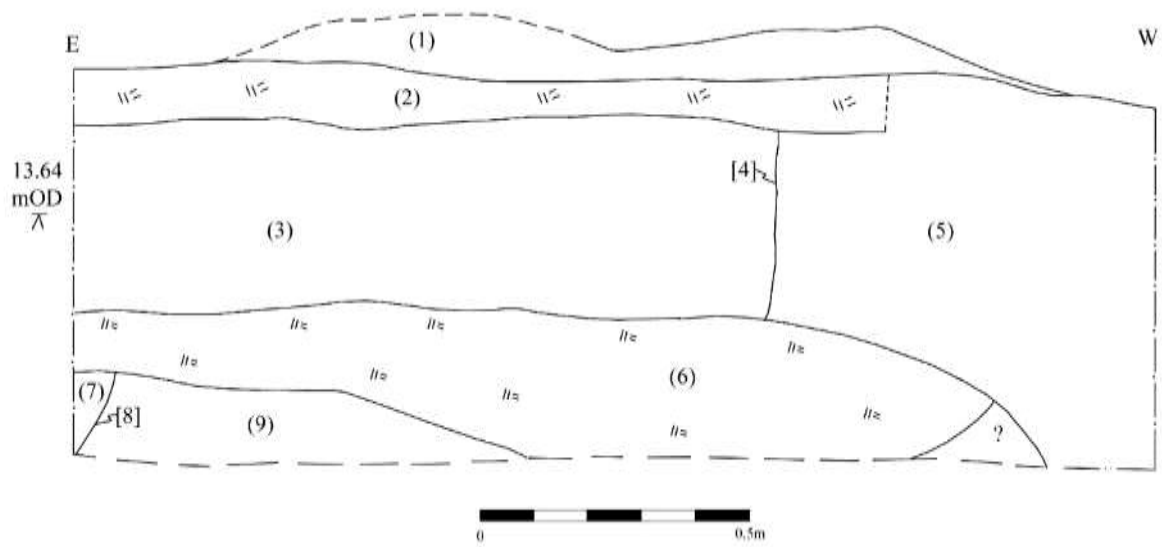


Figure 22: Trench 1 - North facing section, upper 1.2m. Original drawn at 1:20.

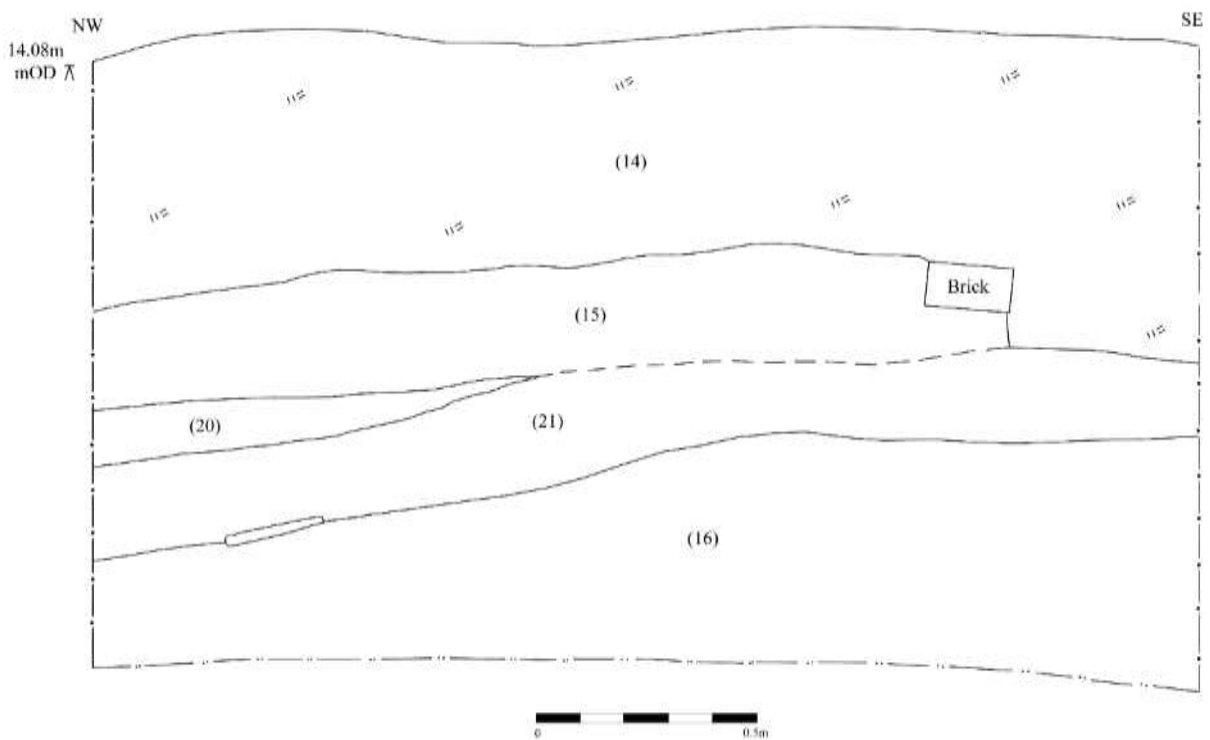


Figure 23: Trench 2 - South-west facing section, upper 1.2m. Original drawn at 1:10.

### **APPENDIX III – CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL** *Analysis by Sue Pringle*

The Ceramic Building Material recovered from 40 Station Road comprised a sample of 163 fragments of brick and tile, with a total weight of 44.591kg, from 8 different contexts. Analysis of the material is discussed below by context:

#### **(5)**

14 fragments with a total weight of 5.371kg were recovered from context (5), a deposit of dark grey silty clay recorded towards the western end of Trench 1. The assemblage comprised 11 fragments of peg tile, 1 brick and 2 fragments of roofing slate. The peg tiles are medieval, dated between 1175-1225 and 1280-1400, with the remaining collection being later in date, c1450 – 1700 and 1760-2000.

Given the relative depth at which the material was encountered and modern disturbance in the upper levels it is likely that this context represents a mix some redeposited monastic material and later post-medieval consolidation material.

#### **(9)**

15 fragments with a total weight of 3.171kg were recovered from context (9), a dark grey – black silt recorded in Trench 1, surrounding and overlying the gravel foundation pads (10) / [11] and (12) / [13]. Similarly to context (5) the assemblage comprised a mix of medieval and post-medieval peg tile fragments, and a possible floor tile fragment, dated predominantly to 1175 / 80 – 1250. A splash glaze observed on one fragment would suggest it might be slightly later medieval in date, however the fabric is the same as the majority of the assemblage and does not indicate a large chronological difference. Again, the material is taken to be monastic in origin, but may be from a less disturbed context than (5).

#### **(10)**

44 fragments with a total weight of 9.922kg were recovered from context (10), the easternmost gravel foundation pad recorded in Trench 1. The assemblage exclusively comprised medieval peg tile. The material is dated 1120 – 80 to 1320 – 1400 and taken to be a primary deposition.

Several of the fragments were covered in a yellowing glaze over a white / light brown slip – a characteristic rarely / never seen in London, but limited to the surrounding environs. Similar fragments of roof tile were recovered from the Museum of London Archaeology Service excavations (MoLAS 2007) found in post-Dissolution demolition deposits. Pottery found with these tiles during the same excavations also gives a 13<sup>th</sup> century date for the material.

#### **(12)**

52 fragments with a total weight of 10.475kg were recovered from context (12), the westernmost of the two gravel foundation pads recorded in Trench 1. The assemblage is consistent with that recovered from context (10), comprising medieval peg tile, and one fragment of post-medieval roofing slate, taken to be intrusive. Again, the assemblage included some covered and splash glazed fragments.



Other fragments worthy of note in the assemblage include 2 fragments of medieval peg tile, one containing finger imprints and the second containing a partial paw imprint, probably from a dog – highlighting both the manufacturing processes and humanity involved in the tile's creation.

Similarly to context (10) the material is taken to be monastic, associated with the demolition and deposition of a possible wall / structure supported by the gravel pads.

**(16)**

5 fragments with a total weight of 163g were recovered from context (16), a layer of silty clay recorded in Trench 2. The small collection comprised small flakes of post-medieval brick, dated 1600-1800. The material is dated to a period between the post-dissolution and infilling of the site in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and may represent residual / redeposited material from elsewhere in the area, potentially the Abbey Gate House estate.

**(17)**

3 fragments with a total weight of 759g were recovered from context (17), a second layer of dark silt recorded in Trench 2. Similarly to context (16) the material was exclusively post-medieval, comprising a fragment of brick, peg tile and pantile.

**(22)**

5 fragments with a total weight of 2.915kg were recovered from context (22), a post-medieval backfill / levelling layer observed at the northeastern end of Trench 2. The assemblage comprised a mix of floor tile, peg tile, stone and brick fragments, both medieval and post-medieval in date. The context is believed to represent an early-20<sup>th</sup> century consolidation or redevelopment of the site, during the infilling of the water features and is therefore likely to be mix of earlier and later demolition and deposition material.

**(23)**

25 fragments with a total weight of 5.279kg were recovered from context (23), a horizontal layer of CBM observed at the southwestern end of Trench 2, deposited between a layers of silt and sand. Similarly to context (22) the material is a mix of medieval and post-medieval peg tile taken to be associated with the early-20<sup>th</sup> century remodelling of the site. The horizontal position in which the material was found may reflect a deliberate attempt to consolidate or level the area.

**Discussion**

In general, the majority of the material is reflective of the monastic period, dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century with a number of manufacturing styles typical of those found outside of London (including keyed tiles and 8 inch modules). The material found within the gravel pads in particular is consistent with CBM found during previous excavations in the area and is also medieval in date, representing the remains of a wall or structure belonging to the Priory complex.

The post-medieval period is also represented, with a number of dumping and levelling layers recorded, taken to be from c1900-1911 when the earlier water features were infilled and the site was redeveloped.

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Figure 24: Sample of peg tiles recovered from context (10). Scale 10cm.



Figure 25: Partially glazed roof tiles, recovered from context (10). Scale 10cm.



Figure 26: Adjoining fragments of white slipped tiles, recovered from context (12). Scale 10cm.



Figure 28: Selection of peg tiles recovered from context (12). Scale 10cm.



Figure 27: Fragment of tile with a partial print, showing the pads and claw indents. Scale 10cm.

#### APPENDIX IV – POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 21 sherds with a total weight of 2247g. It was all modern, and recorded using the conventions of the Museum of London Type-Series (eg. Vince 1985), as follows:

**ENGS:** English Stoneware, 1700-1900. 13 sherds, 1519g.  
**HORT:** Horticultural Earthenwares, 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 31g  
**PEAR TR:** Pearlware with underglaze transfer decoration, 1770-1830. 1 sherd, 74g.  
**PMR:** Post-medieval Redware, 1580 – 1900. 4 sherds, 502g.  
**REFW:** Refined Whiteware, 1800-1900. 1 sherd, 79g  
**TPW:** Transfer-printed Whiteware, 1830-1900. 1 sherd, 42g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per field and transect by fabric type is shown in Table 1. The range of fabrics and vessels is typical of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century sites in the region, comprising a mixture of tablewares and other household pottery such as preserve jars and a chamber-pot.

Context 21 included a number of stoneware jars, including a Keiller Marmalade jar with the inscription “Grand Medal of Merit Vienna 1873”. Such jars were in use during the period 1873-1898 (Mathew 2000, 7). Also present are fragments of two Hartley’s Stoneware jam-jars, both stamped with the “Lighthouse” logo and the inscription “WP Hartley London and Liverpool”. Hartley opened their London factory, at Bermondsey, in 1902.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntxt	PMR		ENGS		PEAR TR		REFW		HORT		TPW		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	4	502	1	78	1	74			1	31			19thC
21			12	1441			1	79			1	42	E20thC
Total	4	502	13	1519	1	74	1	79	1	31	1	42	

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93

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Figure 29: Selection of stoneware vessels recovered from context (21). Scale 10cm.

## APPENDIX V – GLASS by Alex Kerr

A large number of glass vessels were discovered during the excavation of context (21). This comprised a total of 22 bottles (five complete, 17 incomplete), two jars (one complete, one near complete), two glass toppers and a single jar lid. In addition, a single complete glass vessel was recovered from context (22). The following list categorises each in further detail:

### Context (21):

1. 1 x complete, reddish brown/amber ‘picnic’ flask, displaying a rounded oval shape with flattened base and the cork still *in situ*; dated to the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
2. 1 x complete, colourless, hand-blown ‘Horlicks’ jar with ground screw top lip. Embossed with “Horlick's Malted Milk Racine Wis. U.S.A., London Eng." with an underscore below the USA; early 1900’s.
3. 1 x complete, small, pale green aqua ‘druggist’ bottle. Rectangular body displays bevelled edges and a double ring finish, but no other markings; probably late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
4. 1 x complete, small, pale green aqua bottle embossed with “MASONS OK SAUCE” down the side of vessel, which refers to the popular condiment made by George Mason and Co at their Chelsea Works in London circa 1915.
5. 1 x complete, small, pale green aqua bottle. An example of a two piece hinge mould production. Lacks a distinct neck and displays a wide patent finish. Possible example of the ‘olive bottle style’ popular in the early 1900’s.
6. 1 x complete, light yellow brown/amber, oblong-shaped bottle, embossed with “BRANSON Ltd” down one side and “COFFEE EXTRACT” down the opposite side and with the cork still *in situ*. A common household beverage in the early 1900’s.
7. 1 x almost complete, rectangular, pale green aqua bottle. Despite being broken at the base and neck, clearly embossed with “BRACKNELLS CLUB SAUCE” combined with the logo of a swan; early 1900’s.
8. 1 x almost complete, dark olive green wine bottle broken at the shoulder and missing the neck; unknown date.
9. 1 x bottom half of pale green aqua bottle. Embossed with “BATEY & CO LTD LONDON” near base. Refers to the mineral water business bought by Richard James Alabaster, who established Batey’s as a limited company in 1887.
10. 1 x bottom half of small, rectangular, pale blue aqua bottle displaying no markings or distinctive features. Considered a possible medicinal vessel from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
11. 1 x base of olive green “Bordeaux style” wine bottle exhibiting a deep push up base; unknown date.
12. 1 x near complete, small, cylindrical aqua jar. Another example of a two piece hinge mould production. Includes maker’s mark “A” on base (possibly referencing John Agnew & Son, 1861-1891). Design is comparable with other late 19<sup>th</sup> century jars used for pickles, olives and other food products.

13. 1 x pale green aqua bottle rim. Evidence of a tooled, wide patent finish with traces of side seams; unknown date.
14. 1 x body fragment of blue aqua glass. Embossed with “(T)ABLE SPOONS”. Likely formed part of a medicinal measuring bottle, with raised ribbing used to measure amounts; early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
15. 1 x pale blue aqua bottle rim, neck and a fragment of shoulder. Enough of profile survives to determine it was of rectangular shape. A single collar flared finish, along with the narrow neck, suggests it was a rectangular druggist bottle, commonly used between 1870 and 1920.
16. 2 x colourless bottle necks indicative of a ‘club sauce finish’ – a distinctive shape closely identified with sauces intended for meats and, in particular, various brands of Worcestershire Sauce; typical of early 20<sup>th</sup> century designs.
17. 1 x almost complete, small (c. 100mm in height), round, colourless bottle missing the rim. Embossed with “R. WHITES” down the side and “SYRUPS” on the opposite side. References the late 20<sup>th</sup> century soft drinks manufacturer.
18. 1 x medium cobalt blue rim, along with the upper portion of neck. Displays a tooled patent finish indicative of medicinal vessels; undated.
19. 1 x medium green rim and neck. Rim contains an internal thread, observed in some late 19<sup>th</sup> century liquor or soda/mineral water vessels.
20. 1 x dark olive amber, double tapered collared rim with original cork *in situ*. Cork displays stamped markings “TRUMAN HANBURY BUXTON & CO LTD”, referencing the East London Truman Brewery; dated to late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
21. 1 x colourless, single tapered collared rim with long slender neck. Probably belonging to a square, long-necked spirit bottle dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
22. 1 x colourless, single flared collared rim with short, narrow neck. Comparable with other druggist bottles that date to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
23. 1 x aqua green double, long tapered collar rim with slender neck. Diagnostic of late 19<sup>th</sup> century mineral water bottles.
24. 2 x ‘club sauce’ type glass stoppers. This type of stopper has a flat, circular, horizontal top portion (finial) with a narrow tapered shank on the underside. They are missing their original cork sheaths which deteriorated in the ground. Virtually always associated with popular sauce products (e.g. Lea & Perrins) dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
25. 1 x aqua green complete jar lid without the original jar. The jar lid would have been held in position by a bail placed across the central groove (a ‘Lightening-type’ closure). This closure type was common between 1880 and the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Context (22):**

26. 1 x complete reddish amber, square jar with screw thread rim. Likely designed to contain foodstuffs in a domestic context; probably early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



## Discussion:

The glass vessel assemblage for these two contexts appears to represent a typical domestic usage. The majority of examples collected were designed to either store perishable goods, such as various food items or sauces, or functioned as vessels for wines, beers, spirits or mineral water. A small number of the vessels can be designated 'medicinal' items, used to store or measure cures and remedies. The assemblage can be securely dated to the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, based upon the bottle/jar typologies and, when applicable, the maker's marks.

## Bibliography

Society for Historical Archaeology: Historic Glass Bottle Identification and Information. <https://sha.org/bottle/index.htm>



Figure 30: An assortment of glass bottles (L-R: entries 3, 5, 4, 17 and 2). Scale 10cm.



*Figure 31: Glass picnic bottle (entry 1). Scale 10cm.*

## APPENDIX VI – MISCELLANEOUS

In addition to the finds discussed previously, two further miscellaneous items were discovered during the excavation of context (21), detailed below:

1 x complete wooden bobbin. Plain non-decorative piece, only 33mm in length; undated

1 x complete full cheek snaffle bit formed of a jointed central mouthpiece with loose rings either side. Metal slightly corroded, but in overall good condition; undated.

1 x complete metal wheel, with an oiling point to axle in the hub. Measures approximately 560mm in diameter (22 inches), with the width at the hub being 70mm (2.7 inches) and 16mm at the rim (0.6 inches). Taken to be from a small cart or similar.



*Figure 32: Full cheek snaffle bit. Scale 10cm.*



*Figure 33: Cart wheel, or similar. Scale 20cm.*

## APPENDIX VII – OASIS DATA RECORDING FORM

OASIS ID: [compassa1-310964](#)

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at 40 Station Road, Colliers Wood SW19 2LP
Short description of the project	On the 8th and 9th February 2018 Compass Archaeology conducted an Archaeological Evaluation on the site of 40 Station Road, Colliers Wood, London Borough of Merton SW19 2LP. The work was commissioned by Jomas Associates on behalf of the landowner, as part of a pre-commencement condition attached to an approved application to redevelop the site (ref.15/P1156). The evaluation comprised two trenches targeted over several cut water filled features which appear on 19th century cartographic sources, and probably associated with the medieval complex of Merton Priory which stood in the immediate vicinity of the site. The trenches measured 10-12m in length x 1.8-2m in width x 2.55-2.8m in depth. The investigation recorded two gravel pads in Trench 1, taken to foundation pads for a medieval wall associated with the Priory complex. These were truncated by a later water filled cut feature, the homogeneous early-20th century infilling of which was recorded towards the western end of the trench. Trench 2 recorded a series of post-medieval levelling / dumping layers over natural gravel (recorded at 11.36mOD), but no traces of the water features.
Project dates	Start: 08-02-2017 End: 09-02-2017
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SAT18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	15/P1156 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	FOUNDATION PAD Medieval
Monument type	POND Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval
Significant Finds	BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	VESSEL GLASS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON 40 Station Road, Colliers Wood
Postcode	SW19 2LP
Study area	840 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 526383 169924 50.931581563433 0.172400780095 50 55 53 N 000 10 20 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.18m Max: 12.18m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Historic England GLAAS
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	James Aaronson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London archaeological archive
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	40 Station Road, Colliers Wood, London Borough of Merton SW19 2LP
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Archer, H.
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology

Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, Battersea, London SW11 3SJ
Description	Comprehensive report detailing the reasons for conducting an archaeological evaluation and site information, including location and geology, historic and archaeological background and relevant planning policy. Separate sections for methodology, results, discussion and conclusions, supplemented by relevant photographs, plans and section drawings. Specialist finds reports appended at the end of the document in addition to a summary for the London Archaeologist round-up.

## **APPENDIX VIII – LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST FIELDWORK ROUND-UP**

### **Archaeological Evaluation at 40 Station Road, Colliers Wood, London Borough of Merton SW19 2LP, TQ 26383 69924 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Jomas Associates SAT18**

Compass Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation at 40 Station Road, Colliers Wood ahead of redevelopment of the site for residential use. The works comprised two trenches measuring 10 – 12m in length by 1.8m in width, and between 2.55 and 2.8m in depth. The trenches were targeted over a series of ponds or water features associated with Merton Priory and the River Wandle.

A large homogenous deposit, context [22], was recorded in Trench 1 and taken to represent the infilling of a ‘canal’ feature which took place in c1900-1911, although no edge for this feature was observed. Post-medieval finds associated with the infilling, levelling and redevelopment of the site in the early-20<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from both trenches, including a quantity of CBM, glass bottles and a small metal cart wheel.

Two gravel pads were recorded in Trench 1 at a depth of 2.0-2.1m (12.18mOD), measuring 1.3-1.5m in width x a minimum of 0.4m in thickness, set 2.5m apart. The structures are taken to represent foundation pads for a wall associated with the Priory complex and produced CBM dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Natural geology was encountered at the southeastern end of Trench 2. The material comprised Taplow Park Gravels, recorded at a depth of 2.8m (11.36mOD).